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## WEDDING ISSUE

### THINKING

- 10 From the Editor: The Wedding Issue
- 12 Edgewise: A Defense of Marriage
- 14 Book Review: Here Come the Brides
- 16 From the Mouths of Babes
- 18 Socially Savvy: Wedding Etiquette
- 20 The Legality of Marriage

### PLANNING

- 24 A More Perfect Union
- 28 Who is: Donna Lindsay-Goodwin

### MAKING

- 30 Make Your Own: Wedding Banner
- 32 Throw Your Own: Wedding at Home

### DRESSING

- 42 Wedding Fashion
- 54 Danielle Everine: Runway Bride
- 58 Beauty Isn't Frivolous

### CELEBRATING

- 59 Honeymoons: Puerto Rico and China
- 64 Wedding Marketplace
- 72 Bachelor(ette)s & Bars: Hit the Town
- 78 Venues for You

### LOVING

- 82 Lavender Love: Wedding Edition
- 88 Real Weddings

### RESOURCES

- 111 Wedding Directory
- 113 The Network
- 116 Community Connection
- 119 Classifieds



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24



Photo by Mike Hnida

40



Photo by Becca Dilley, Hearten magazine

54



Photo Courtesy of Jerry Lee

72

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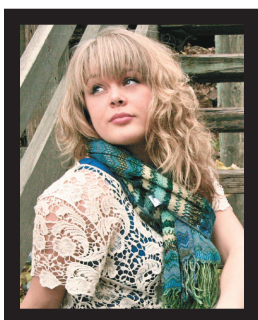
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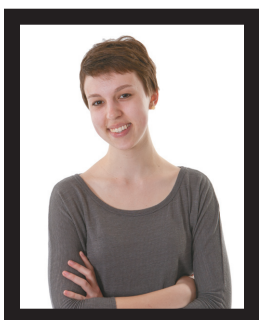
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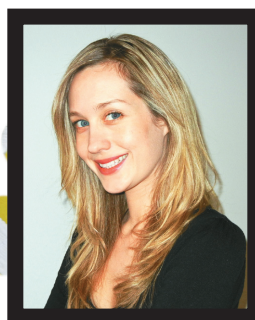
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# From The Editor: The Wedding Issue

→ by Andy Lien

THE WEDDING Issue. It's kind of a big deal, double entendre intended.

Weddings and marriage and legislation and love. Hopefully, we'll look back on 2012 as the year that banning same-sex marriage was kept out of the constitution. Still, it won't be legal—even if somehow passed in Minnesota—due to the Defense of Marriage Act.

Still. And. But. We have a Wedding Issue.

Why?

Because you keep having weddings.

You are committing yourselves to each other. You are signing documents. You are

rallying your friends and family to bear witness to your love.

You are loving.

Lavender has put out Wedding Issues in the past, but they've been small—a few articles here, a few photos there. Perhaps they've been indications of how we've been pussy-footing around the issue of weddings, until now.

This issue—in your hands, on your screen, on your iPad—is evidence that same-sex weddings are a force to be reckoned with, as are the people getting married. And their friends. And their families. And the wedding industry, itself. As I approached people to potentially contribute

to this publication's editorial content, I asked: 1.) Do you work with same-sex couples and 2.) if you do, do you have photography or stories you'd like to share? The response was overwhelmingly positive. Many wedding industry professionals welcome you. They want to work with you. And, many who already have, are featured in the pages here.

These folks aren't quite pioneers, as people have been having union and commitment ceremonies for a long time. But, "coming out" as supporting same-sex weddings from within an industry that has relied solely upon heterosexual-

ity, well...these advertisers and vendors deserve some major props for being on the front end of the wave that is sure to come.

What I hope most is that you see yourself in these pages, whether you've got a wedding in your future or your past, as a bride or groom or guest. Or whatever you would like to call yourself. The significance of this issue is that it lends legitimacy to what we're working toward. Equal rights. A legitimacy that includes you.

All my best,  
Andy □

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# Edgewise: A Defense of Marriage

→ by E.B. Boatner

IN JUNE 2008, I attended the First (and the Last) Annual Celebration of Marriage in Palm Springs. It was impossible to remain dry-eyed as couples just-paired to partners of decades were able to legally marry in California.

It was nearly impossible to remain dry-eyed that November as Californians voted in Prop 8 and stopped the gay marriage flow. This February 8, a federal appeals court declared Prop 8 unconstitutional, forcing supporters to ask for a larger panel of the Ninth Circuit United States Court of Appeals to take up the case, or choose to appeal

directly to the Supreme Court.

The violence and determination with which one sector of United States citizens fights to curb the rights of another is disheartening, as is the fact that the Federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) still stands.

In the latest on that front, DOMA was also declared unconstitutional by Judge Jeffrey White in a California suit filed by Karen Golinski, who sued after the U.S. Office of Personnel Management refused to provide health coverage for her legal wife. Three GOP congressional leaders are now appealing that ruling.

And what is this Marriage they are fighting to defend? Surely not the current one, where nearly half of the unions between members of the opposite sex are dissolving?

*Here Come the Brides* (see Books) reveals in first-person accounts what at least these lesbians are looking for, and it turns out to be what I posit that gays—or any other marriage-minded humans—are looking for: Another human (not their pet) to legally wed; to share the future, make a life, be with in the end. With children, or without; not all op-sex married couples choose to produce them, either.

As Susan Goldberg, one of the *Brides* brides whose mom died just before the wedding after the celebrants had assembled, said, “And that’s the thing about weddings: “Done right, they bring together more than two people. They knit families and friends together, make us collectively stronger. And that’s why, for me at least, the issue of gay marriage resonates: The human rights it protects and enshrines extend beyond the two brides or two grooms to their parents, their siblings, their communities.”

Now, in my book, *that’s* a defense of marriage. □

## Easter Joy

a poem  
written by  
Mark Halla

The picture of Jesus on the cross brings tears to my eyes,  
I remember the man, whom for us did die,  
He had created the world with a sweep of His hand,  
then humbled himself and came to Earth as a man.

Created in His image, yet fallen so far, we had turned  
away from God and we drifted afar.

For us he did come, God on Earth, a savior no doubt,  
a chance for new birth. The gift is free, for all who believe,  
eternal life for you and for me!

Our cross He did bear, my sin and yours,  
temporarily separated from God the Father, totally abhorred.  
The same hands that had once sculpted me as clay  
now bore the marks of sin's decay!

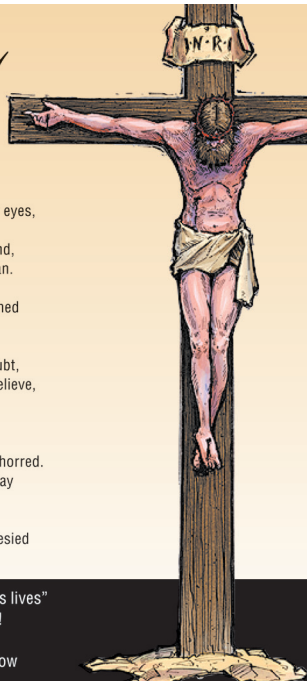
Yet He defeated death, once for all, rising as prophesied  
three days after the fall.

We are called to spread the Good News that “Jesus lives”  
and evidence with our lives that we are His!

You see, the tears I have are not tears of sorrow  
but rather tears of joy that  
Christ saved me yesterday,  
today and tomorrow!

**Thanks  
be to God!!!**

INRI: Translated this was a sign posted by  
Pontius Pilate that read “Jesus of Nazareth  
the King of the Jews” See John 19:19-20



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→ by E.B. Boatner

**HERE COME THE BRIDES:  
REFLECTIONS ON LESBIAN  
LOVE AND MARRIAGE**  
Ed. Audrey Bilger & Michele Kort  
Seal Press  
\$17

Not all roses and champagne—though roses flourish and champagne flows—the book covers marriage; first stirrings, Candace Walsh, “A Tale of Two Cakes;” the carrying-through, Amelia Sauter’s cartoon “As the Girl Turns;” and some of the sadder, later, and sometimes inevitable breakups endured by couples of all genders, Eria Dyson’s “Eschaton, or The Gay Divorcées.” There is the lovely and historical “The First Brides: A Conversation with Kate Kendell and Phylis Lyon.” As the piece notes, Lyon and her late partner of fifty-six years, Del Martin, are “the legendary lesbians of twentieth-century California history,” among the founders of the Daughters of Bilitis and the first to marry in California 2004 and again in 2008. This engaging collection of first-person accounts makes an absorbing read. □



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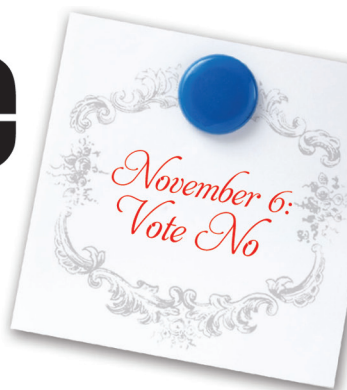


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## From the Mouths of Babes

→ by Lannie Walker

WE WERE married in midmorning and divorced by lunchtime. I only agreed to a wedding because I thought the midriff-baring football jersey he wore was cute. We had only known each other for a few months and had barely spoken. Our courting amounted to me and a bunch of friends chasing him until he slipped and fell in a mud puddle and had to call his mom to bring a clean set of clothes. The wedding party was antsy, giggly, completely lacking the called-for decorum. I don't remember who officiated over the proceedings but I know they were short: "Lannie, will you marry Skip? That is going to make him your husband, you know." "Yeah, I know," I rolled my eyes. "Skip, are you going to marry Lannie? Then she'll be your wife!" "Umm, okay," said Skip, kicking at the dirt and blushing. "I now pronounce you man and wife." That part we had all memorized from watching TV. And, of course, "You may kiss the bride!" Absolutely not. Now it was my turn to take off in a sprint.

In those days, when the kids I knew played "marriage" it was always between a girl and a boy. I don't think we really knew anything else. No TV shows we watched showed persons of the same gender getting or being married. No books we read or movies we watched had two men or two women in a marriage. It was just the way it was. If Sally was going to get married, she had to choose from the boys in the class. If Bob was ready to take the plunge, he picked from the girls in the class.

A mom in her mid-thirties told me a story the other day that made me wonder how that may be changing for future generations.

When her daughter was four years old she asked why a

boy in her preschool had two daddies. The mom explained that he has two daddies because his daddies met each other, fell in love, got married, and wanted to have children—just like her mommy and daddy did. A few years later, after her daughter entered grade school, her teacher told this mom a story about the kids playing "marriage" in class. As the boys and girls were pairing off with one another one little boy said he wanted to marry another little boy. "But you can't," one student challenged, "because you are both boys." The mom's daughter objected, "Boys can marry boys. My mom told me they could and it's okay." At that revelation the little boys dumped the girls they had picked and decided they wanted to marry each other. The girls, not to be outdone, said fine, we will just marry each other too, then. And soon the boy-and-girl marriage play turned into same-gender marriage play.

Having a real-world example of same-sex marriage early on can have a big impact a person's view of marriage according to one woman I spoke with, who is in her late twenties and considers herself a GLBTA ally. She tells me because her aunt married a woman when she was ten years old she grew up considering same gender marriage to be "no big deal." She says she was aware her friends lacked the same understanding of the concept, but she thought from an early age, "Yeah, woman can marry women."

Another woman, now in her mid-twenties who identifies as "queer questioning" says she never considered same-sex marriage until a few years ago, but thinks for younger generations that is changing, "I have a close friend whose twelve-year-old son is like, 'Yeah, I have two mommies' and hasn't been

influenced yet by the social and cultural barriers, so he is proud. 'I have two mommies, why wouldn't anybody else?'"

Does she think the idea of marriage is changing for kids who came from heterosexual parents, too?

"Oh, yeah," she nods. "It's changed a lot since we were kids—now they see there are more options."

Twenty-four-year-old Remy Corso, who identifies as transgender, sees a positive shift in the younger generations. He calls kids exploring play with same-gender marriages a "positive trend."

"The hazard that some people see out there is that this encourages kids to be gay or lesbian or trans\* but my thought is why shouldn't we be? If we are encouraging kids for decades and decades to grow up to be heterosexual or growing up to be cisgender what it wrong with a little encouragement of the other options?"

He rejects the notion that these kinds of school yard games could "turn" a kid gay or trans and says a backlash "could be good. I hope people can remember that as far as public places—public school—are concerned, we've got a really great Minnesota Human Rights Act that covers us under sexuality and gender identity expression and you cannot squash that. If anyone tried to push for a public school having a policy against that kind of play they would be stomped out because we have greater laws in the state of Minnesota to protect us against that."

I ask him if he thinks having this type of play and exposure at such an early age might result in kids being more acclimated to the idea of equal marriage when they are older and maybe even help them be able to interact better as adults with those

who are different than them:

"Yeah," he says. "It's teaching people about diversity in a really simple way. You don't even to call that diversity to kids. They just know it."

"Just knowing it" in the same way kids like Skip and me just "knew" marriage between a boy and a girl was "acceptable" at that time.

Corso continues, "What kind of world do we live in where people don't even see those possible options? There can still be a lot of education around gender and sexuality and equity in schools for children but this is just one really natural way kids can be learning about it. What if this generation of school kids never even has to talk about something like gender equality because they grew up with it right? And they don't even have to think too much about this past when there was this great inequality between folks who could get married. They will be like, 'Hey I grew up when people could get married to whoever they wanted to so what do you mean certain people couldn't get married?' Because that's the way it had always been for them. That is a positive outcome."

For the mom whose daughter just a few years ago asked, "Mommy, why does he have two daddies?" the outcome might mean less explaining in years to come.

Her daughter, who is now close to the same age I was when I had my first "playground marriage," rolls her eyes when she is asked what she thinks of a new playmate having two mommies.

She sighs, as if exasperated that adults can't seem to grasp what for a child seems so basic, "Don't you know? A mom can marry a mom. It's really no big deal." □



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Kaitlin + Clara who were married this past fall.  
Photos by Nathan Kavlie Photography.

## Be A Good Guest At The Wedding

→ by Sean Ryan and Edward Piechowski

WHAT A delight to be invited to a wedding, whether it's for your closest friend, a family member, a work colleague, or maybe even your boss. The rules are the same; no matter how close or not close you are to the bridal couple.

The save-the-date card is a relatively recent tradition. In our complicated, too-busy world, this early "warning," sent out weeks or maybe even months before the official wedding invitation, lets you make sure you can clear your schedule well in advance and reserve a hotel room if necessary. This is especially important if it's a destination wedding. **HINT:** You can always cancel a reservation with enough notice, but you can never get a room at the last moment!

Read the invitation! Is it for you, or you and a guest? **HINT:** If it's just an invitation to you, if you know anyone else who's likely to be going, put a group together. If you feel lost without your companion, feel free to send regrets.

If you can't attend the wedding or reception, send your apologies on a handwritten note; it's much more personal and it lets your hosts offer an invitation to someone else they may have hoped to invite. **HINT:** RSVPs do not require an excuse, so don't offer TMI; just give ample notice.

Check the gift registration! It's an easy way to see what gifts the couple really need or want, minimizing the chance of a return. **HINT:** Send your gift to the couple's home in advance of the wedding. There's no need to rush at the last minute—and you don't have to haul that toaster to the event itself.

Knock yourself out! A wedding is a joyous occasion; give it the effort and attention it deserves. Hair, nails, shoes, and wardrobe... you not only want to look dazzling yourself, you want the married couple to feel that they have stylish friends. **HINT:** This is your big chance to let everyone know that you could get married if you wanted to!

Arrive on time! If the invitation says the wedding starts at 5, that's when the married couple arrives, not the guests. Get yourself to the church (or wherever) 20 minutes early. **HINT:** This gives you a little time to relax, unwind, and scope out the available crowd/competition.

Fill the gap. The time between the wedding and the reception often is photo time for the wedding party, just hanging around time for the guests. It's all too common to drink away this lull in the activity, but if you want to be on your best behavior during dinner, don't start too early. **HINT:** Instead of going to the bar, go to a movie, head to the mall, check out some local sites or just take a walk.

Take it easy on the alcohol. You look great, you're going to have nice time, but don't convince everyone you're a drunk. Open bars can spell trouble; pace yourself. There's a long night ahead of romantic dances and social interaction; you want to be at your best. **HINT:** Alternate alcoholic drinks and something non-alcoholic.

A wedding dinner is the same as a dinner party at someone's home. It's your job—and your pleasure—to contribute to the conversation, even if you have just met the others at the table. **HINT:** The best way to get people

to like you is to be interested in them.

Dance as though your grandmother is watching—because the grandparents of the wedding couple probably are. For any other evening, there may be a pair of go-go boots with your name on them, but leave them at home for the wedding reception. **HINT:** No juking, it's just filthy. Save it for the stag or stagette party.

When you're ready to leave, track down both the newlyweds and thank them personally. It doesn't matter if you spent half the night crying because you saw that ex with someone else. Wipe away the smeared mascara and pull yourself together enough to make a lovely exit. **HINT:** Bonus points if you thank the parents of the newlyweds, who may be footing the bill.

Be proactive in giving thanks. As you patiently wait for the note thanking you for the lovely chip-and-dip set you gave the couple, kick them out a note of congratulations and gratitude for wining and dining you all night. **HINT:** If you're worried that your gift didn't arrive, don't be afraid to ask how they liked it. They might be grateful to be able to get that thank-you out of the way.

It is an honor and a privilege to share in someone's wedding. Enjoy the day, but also show the bridal couple the respect they deserve by being the best guest ever. □

In researching this article, we tried hard to find etiquette and ideas specific to gay weddings, but the only differences we could find were the names of the wedding couples. Don't outlaw Love! Remember to show your support for Minnesotans United for All Families at MNUNITED.ORG



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# IN A HEARTBEAT: THE LEGALITY OF MARRIAGE



WHEN MARIANNE Norris was first coming out, she wanted someone to talk to. She was established in her career, she had grown children – and she didn’t know many gay women who shared that experience. A friend suggested she email Eileen Scallen, then a law professor in San Francisco, who had come out a year before. “Neither of us had any idea where it would go,” Norris recalls. “We weren’t thinking anything was being set up, or anything romantic.” When the two were finally able to meet, though, it became clear that there was something between them. “It was one of the best things that happened,” she tells me with quiet joy, as though it happened a week ago.

In fact, Norris and Scallen are coming up on fifteen years together. Scallen, who is originally from the Twin Cities, returned after being offered a position at William Mitchell College of Law. “She probably never thought she’d come back to Minnesota,” Norris says, laughing, “but I guess I got her to come back.”

Not long after, they had a very small commitment ceremony – just the two of them, their witness and their cat. They wanted to keep it small for a few reasons; first, Norris was still in the process of coming out, and, as she says, wasn’t quite comfortable yet with this new identity. What’s more, Scallen wasn’t sure how her family would respond. “They’re very wonderful, strong Catholics,” Norris explains, “and if we had some kind of a big celebration, how comfortable would they have been, and would they have come?”

Still, the ceremony was just what they wanted. “I sobbed through the whole thing,” Scallen tells me, “so in a sense I was glad there weren’t more people around, because I was a wreck.” It was the first time, she says, that she ever cried out of happiness. She occasionally goes back and reads the vows that they wrote for the occasion, and when she does, they always bring tears to her eyes.

How guests will respond to their commitment ceremony or wedding is something that many same-sex couples have to think about. Aine Humble, an Associate Professor at Mount Saint Vincent University in Nova Scotia, recently completed a study of 14 same-sex couples who have married since the 2005 passage of the Civil Marriage Act. In her conversations with these couples, she found that

they approached their weddings with “a lot of intentionality and a lot of planning,” and thought through things in a way that heterosexual couples don’t have to. The process of inviting someone, for example, might also mean coming out to that person. It could mean being turned down, in the case of those who reach out to disapproving family members in the hopes that they will change their minds.

Humble also notes the added pressure that comes from hosting what may be the first gay wedding that guests have attended. “Some of them worried about, ‘Are we going to kiss in front of people? I’ve never kissed my partner in front of her daughter, or I’ve never kissed my partner in front of my parents,’” she explains. “All those little things that heterosexual couples take for granted, they had to think through.”

With this in mind, some couples decide to go entirely their own way, with a ceremony representative of who they are and what means the most to them. “There was one lesbian couple that got married at I think something like 5 o’clock in the morning on the beach,” Humble recalls. “They timed their wedding vows so that they were saying them right as the sun was coming up.” However, for those who did choose something more traditional, they still found ways to make the wedding their own. One couple decided to wear rainbow stoles during the ceremony, and another gave corkscrews adorned with tiny rainbow flags as favors for their guests.

According to The Rev. Canon Timothy Hodapp, who performs ceremonies in the Episcopal Church for both gay and straight couples, choosing the traditional is, in a sense, choosing the familiar. “As a culture, that’s how we mark a married couple, through those liturgical, ritual actions,” he explains. “There’s something comforting about that. And it may also – although I’ve never heard this – reflect a real desire to say, ‘marriage is marriage, regardless.’”

Hodapp was a Catholic priest for twelve years before coming out. His husband of four years (and partner of thirteen), Gerard Sullivan, was also raised in the Church. For them, incorporating their faith into a ceremony was vital. “It was important for us to stand up in front of our family and friends and profess what we were living,” Hodapp explains, “because we felt as sacramentally married before God as





Marianne Norris and Eileen Scallen. Photo courtesy of Marianne Norris



Tim Hodapp. Photo Courtesy of Tim Hodapp



Aine Humble. Photo Courtesy of Aine Humble

Continued on page 22 



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any straight couple.” In 2004, a Roman Catholic priest, along with 250 of their family and friends, heard their vows in a ceremony at a Unitarian church in Minneapolis. “It all felt really good and kind-of – it also felt a little maverick,” Hodapp recalls, grinning. “Because we had this priest there hearing us, receiving our vows.” Afterward, there was a huge party for their friends and family. They served ribs, they danced – as Hodapp says, “it was just a hoot.”

Following the ceremony, though, it became important to find a place where they could marry legally. In October of 2008, they traveled to California with two of their closest friends, just before the vote that would ban same-sex marriage across the state. They were married in the rotunda at the City Hall in San Francisco, where *Milk* was filmed. “We were in a line of probably 50 couples,” Hodapp recalls. “It was a real rush...to get it in before Prop 8 hit the bill. So there were a lot of people there, but it wasn’t a cattle call. It was absolutely lovely.”

Now, though, with Minnesota’s own vote looming on the horizon, Hodapp and Sullivan are starting to think a lot about their future. Though they want to stay here, it may not be an option should the Amendment pass. More than anything, they want to live in a place that will be safe. When I asked Hodapp what he means by ‘safe,’ he says, “for us, safety is all about what’s legally assured us as well as what’s culturally assured us. So we’d want to live in a place that provided both.” For example, the ability, which many people take for granted, “to hold hands or give each other a peck as you run up and say hello at the end of the day.”

The possibility of the Amendment is also influencing how Norris and Scallen think about marriage. “I would feel pretty hopeless if it

passed,” Norris says. “I’m sixty-eight years old...and it would take so long to undo that, that I doubt we would ever be able to get married in Minnesota.” At this point, however, they’ve decided not to get married until it’s legal here. Though they’ve discussed the possibility of marrying elsewhere for many years, in the end, this is their home. “I’m a Minnesotan,” Scallen says. “I was born here...and I shouldn’t have to leave the state to have the same rights as my brothers and sisters.”

At the same time, though, Scallen says she would think seriously about whether or not they could leave Minnesota if the Amendment does pass. “It would be a direct slap in our faces,” she says. “There is no question, this is not just about marriage. This is about our relationships. It *is* about our sexual orientation. And it is saying we are not as good as opposite-sex couples who can get married.”

As Hodapp says, “Culture is a long time in changing...I mean, shoot, when I was a kid, you were afraid to even admit that you were gay. And it’s a different world now. It’ll be a different world in twenty years. I’m hoping...I think Minnesota will change.”

The way things are now, Scallen thinks it is unlikely that marriage will be legalized in Minnesota anytime soon. Still, when I ask Norris what they would do if marriage were someday legalized in Minnesota, if they would get married, without a moment’s hesitation she responds, “Absolutely. In a heartbeat.”

As for the wedding, both women imagine something not unlike Hodapp and Sullivan’s commitment ceremony – one that is, above all, a celebration.

“I would see it as a real ceremony and a real party,” Norris says. “A really good time for everybody.” ■

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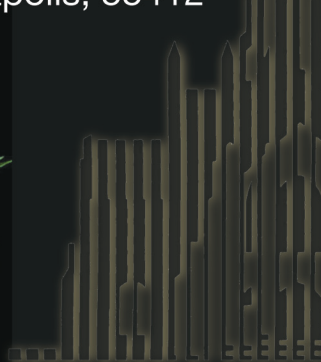
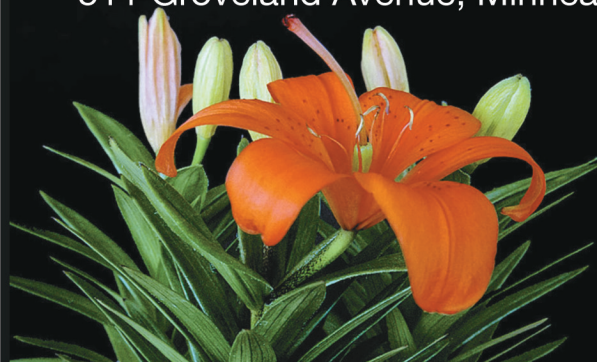
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# A MORE PERFECT UNION



→ by Heidi Fellner

THE DECISION to marry is a deeply personal one, and can be one of the most significant decisions a couple can make. It ties their finances, their families, and their future into a knot that hopefully makes their love stronger, and their life better. But for the GLBT community, the decision to have a ceremony can be more complicated than that. Many Americans (and thus churches and wedding industry professionals) are not supportive of gay and lesbian unions, and no matter how beautiful the flowers, no matter how luscious the cake, these unions are still not recognized in most states.

But that needn't stop couples from having meaningful, joy-filled ceremonies. In fact, Alyson Newquist, who along with her wife own the exquisitely beautiful venue Juliane James Place, believes it's all the more reason to have one. "As somebody who got married in a non-legal ceremony, I think it is the biggest thing we can do to make marriage legal, because [that] changes the hearts and minds of people." She adds, "Some people want to have small ceremonies in their backyard, and that's awesome, but I think sometimes people think they have to do that because they have internalized not deserving a wedding, or they think their family and friends aren't going to be supportive...but it's amazing how supportive people can be once they're given the opportunity."

Juliane James Place is often booked by couples who value spending more time with friends and family—or want more elaborate decor—and is rented out for the entire weekend, Thursday to Sunday. The 40-acre wooded property is about an hour and 45 minutes north of the Twin Cities, and features a large pond, a garden and a small orchard, a main house and a cabin; fourteen people can stay on the property for the entire weekend, and the nearby towns of



Juliane James Place. Photo by PhotogenInc

Finlayson, Willow River, and Hinckley can accommodate a large number of guests.

Because it is an outdoor venue, Newquist has planned for all sorts of weather, keeps the mosquitoes at bay, has movable fire pits, and all the necessary furnishings to keep wedding guests comfortable. Juliane James Place is also dog-friendly, and the wedding party can keep costs under control by bringing in their own liquor. Out in the middle of the Minnesotan wilderness, it's a far cry from the church wedding vision many people have in their heads, but sometimes it's a

wedding's uniqueness that makes it a more meaningful experience for both couple and guests.

Christopher Westlund, Senior Catering Sales Manager of the Marquette Hotel and coordinator of the GLBT Wedding Expo for six years, says his biggest recommendation for couples planning a wedding is to try and do something a little different. "Most people like the traditional setup and timeline of events, but if you can do something that just throws a little curveball in there, people will remember that." Westlund recalls of his own ceremony, "Our wedding cake was very important to us, so the design was inspired by men's cloth-

Continued on page 26





Christopher Westlund's wedding cake to remember.  
Photo by Troy Kivel



A networker of weddings, Julie Lyford.  
Photo by John Molene Photography



A photograph of the photographer, Emma Freeman. Photo by Emma Freeman.

Continued from page 24

ing. To this day, it is probably the most talked-about thing from our wedding. We also changed up the dinner format, and ended up doing a six-course meal—more of the smaller bite, the tapas, and all of that. It exposes your guests to menu items they might not have otherwise tried, and it makes it more fun for everyone.”

Finding the right vendors has gotten easier over the years, but Westlund admits there was one potential candidate that shied away from a GLBT ceremony. “Other than that,” he states, “it was open arms. I think we were really surprised by the number of vendors and businesses and people that were just so open.” Still, just to make sure there aren’t any unpleasant surprises down the road, he recommends working it into any vendor conversation right away that the ceremony would be for a same-sex couple. “I doesn’t have to be like, ‘We’re a gay couple. Do you work with gay couples?’ I just said, ‘My fiancé,’ and said his name, so it’s clear that it’s two men right from the get-go.”

If you choose to work with a wedding planner like Julie Lyford of Fabulous Functions, they can have this conversation in your stead. Lyford explains, “One of the things I do is I go out and pre-screen the vendors. I go and talk to them, and make sure that they are GLBTQ friendly, because some aren’t. And to be blunt, this is America, and they have a right to their opinion, but we have a right not to go there. I ask them some pretty pointed questions so that the bride and bride or groom and groom can feel comfortable going in there.”

For Lyford, planning GLBT weddings has been a long-time passion, inspired by her father’s 25-year relationship with his partner. Just last year the couple was finally allowed to get married in Iowa. Lyford states, “I feel like there’s an abundance of joy and love and acceptance at the GLBT weddings that I don’t always feel at the straight weddings. It’s hard to explain, but there’s this blanket of love surrounding them.” In addition to Fabulous Functions, Lyford is president of Wish Upon a Wedding, which grants wedding wishes for couples, regardless of sexual orientation, who are facing terminal illness.

For couples trying to keep a wedding within a budget, it can often be tempting to scratch the wedding planner and do everything themselves, but a wedding planner can often save you money in other ways. Lyford explains, “We know so many different venues, and so many different vendors that we can let you know if there’s someone who’s up and coming but who’s fabulous, because I know all of these people.” Moreover, if you do the wedding planning yourself, you will be the ones left to deal with any last-minute issues, so instead of enjoying what should be an amazing day, you and your immediate family can become stressed out.

For no-fuss catering, some wedding planners are turning to the Chef Shack. Life and business partners Carrie Summer and Lisa Carlson took their vast culinary knowledge and invested in a two

food trucks and a trailer. Their cheery trucks delight guests who appreciate the novelty, but foodies are just as thrilled. Pastry chef Summer hails from Morimoto and Jojo in New York before migrating to the Nicollet Island Inn and Spoon River. Carlson’s credits include Lespinasse, Les Escargot, Campton Place and Chez Panisse before also migrating to Spoon River. Chef Shack has made the top 10 list for *Bon Appetit*, and was chosen as one of *Mpls.St Paul Magazine’s* Best Restaurants in 2011.

“We really pride ourselves on being creative chefs. We tailor the menu to the guests, and keep the menu seasonal and super fresh,” Summer states. Anything from an informal backyard affair to a multi-course, sit-down dinner is possible from the truck, and best of all, once the meal is over, no extended clean-up is necessary. The truck simply drives away.”

Of course, just like one’s photographer and choice of music, food is a very personal choice. If the myriad of catering companies are leaving you a little numb, Summer recommends hitting up your favorite restaurant. “A lot of times even if catering is just a sideline project, they’d be more than happy to do a little catering gig and make some money. Just go wherever you like the cooking and ask them.” She adds, “I think most chefs would definitely be flattered, and any establishment that’s doing any kind of volume would definitely have the experience and the volume to do a catering gig.”

There are also a multitude of choices when it comes to photography, but beyond flipping through stacks of albums, finding a photographer that you resonate with personally can be key. Emma Freeman usually connects with clients through referrals. Because she prefers to use film, couples often are drawn to her subtlety and use of color. However, she strongly recommends getting to know photographers beyond their work. “You can learn a lot about style and approach from looking at their websites, but having a face-to-face conversation is essential to see if you have a connection. I try to remind couples that they will be spending most of their wedding day with their photographer, so you want to be sure you like their personality and feel comfortable around them.”

Freeman adds, “Being gay myself, I feel a strong connection with GLBT/queer couples who are choosing to celebrate their lives and have a wedding, especially in a state where it is not legally recognized. Marriage is a very political issue, and not all photographers see it that way.”

Even in this strange 21st century intersection of romantic love and political ambition, there’s no reason why everyone can’t experience the most important aspect of a wedding: declaring a commitment to each other, and announcing that commitment surrounded by the love and support of friends and family. And that’s the kind of sacrament no law will ever touch. □

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Palm/Passion Sunday 8 & 10:30 am - 4/1  
Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm - 4/5  
Good Friday Service 7 pm - 4/6  
Easter Sunday Services 8 & 10:30 am - 4/8

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Palm Sunday Worship- April 1 10:30AM  
Maundy Thursday Worship- April 5 12:15PM and 7PM  
Stations of the Cross- April 6 11:30AM-3:30PM  
Good Friday Worship w/Salem Lutheran- April 6, 7PM  
Easter Festival Worship- April 8 10:30AM  
Open Table LGBT Worship- April 8 12:15PM

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## Donna Lindsay-Goodwin: Who's That Lady?

→ by Kathleen Watson

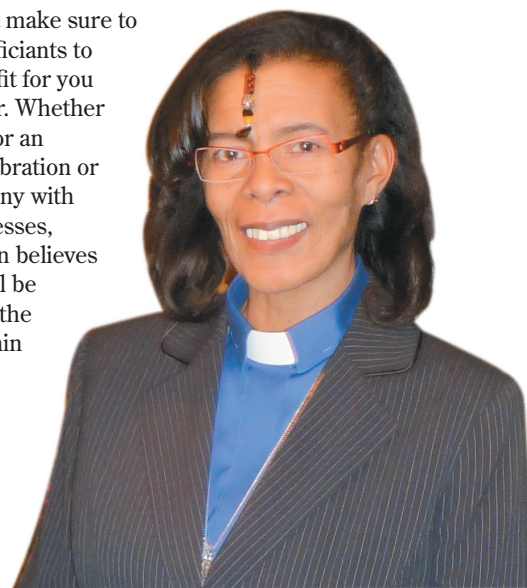
AS AN Ordained Minister at Healing Hands-Healing Hearts and the President of DLG Creative Management-Wedding and Event Planning, Donna Lindsay-Goodwin is a familiar face around the Twin Cities. Many people would recognize Lindsay-Goodwin as one of the officiants at the PRIDE commitment ceremonies in previous years, but her support of marriage equality doesn't end at PRIDE. Lindsay-Goodwin believes that "love only sees love," and she continues to assist people in their journeys toward committed life together.

Lindsay-Goodwin enjoyed officiating the PRIDE commitment ceremonies because "the

focus remained very much on the couple. No, there wasn't all the glitz and glitter of a 'months in the planning' ceremony, yet I felt that in the simplicity of the ceremonies was the beauty." She emphasizes the importance of the connection between two people, saying "when two people come to me who are truly walking in a committed relatedness, and wish to acknowledge, honor, celebrate, and formalize that commitment, I feel it is the right action and appropriate to do so."

She has some advice for couples who are planning their ceremonies: when looking for an officiant, start by doing basic research through friends and

the Internet, but make sure to interview the officiants to find the perfect fit for you and your partner. Whether you're looking for an extravagant celebration or a simple ceremony with a couple of witnesses, Lindsay-Goodwin believes that "it should all be about reflecting the spirit that is within the two of you."



MGIII, Still Coda Photography

### Experience Holy Week at ECLC

April 1 • Palm Sunday Services  
8:15 am & 11:00 am

April 5 • Maundy Thursday Services  
5:45 pm (extra child-friendly) & 7:15 pm

April 6 • Good Friday Services  
5:45 pm (extra child-friendly) & 7:15 pm

April 7 • Great Vigil of Easter  
6:00 pm

April 8 • Easter Sunday Services  
8:00 am, 9:30 am, & 11:00 am

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**Palm Sunday, April 1, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary.**

++++

**Maundy Thursday, April 5, Worship and Holy Communion.**

12 noon in the Elizabeth Chapel.

7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary with the Office of Tenebrae.

++++

**Good Friday, April 6, 12 noon Worship in the Elizabeth Chapel.**

7:30 p.m. Vespers in the Sanctuary, choir and orchestra.

++++

**Easter Sunday, April 8**

7:30 a.m. Worship in the Elizabeth Chapel, followed by breakfast  
9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Festive Worship in the Sanctuary, with organs and brass.



### Good Friday Service

Friday, April 6th  
7:00PM

### Easter Service

Sunday, April 8th  
10:00AM



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→ by Carson Riutta. Photos by Andy Lien

# HOW-TO: MAKE A



Chevron stripes are everywhere these days. They make a striking, easy-to-create, border for any paper project. Here is a simple, yet graphic, chevron-striped wedding banner that you can make at home with just a few basic tools and materials.

These banners are perfect for use as a prop in your wedding photos, as a cute way to designate your private couple's table, or as an "awww"-inducing décor element at your reception.

## MATERIALS

1 piece 12×12 chevron patterned paper  
2 pieces printable coordinating cardstock (some printers don't accept the heavy cardstock so err on the lighter side of paper weight when choosing this cardstock, even text weight paper will work)

2 yards of coordinating ribbon  
Double-sided tape

## TOOLS

Paper cutter (a straightedge and scissors will work, I recommend picking up a small papercutter to make the job much easier)

Scissors  
Pencil  
Hole punch  
Printer  
Word processing program  
Stamps and ink pads are optional

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut your 12" x 12" paper into 4 equal squares of 6" x 6".
2. Cut along the zig-zag design at the bottom of each square to make your chev-

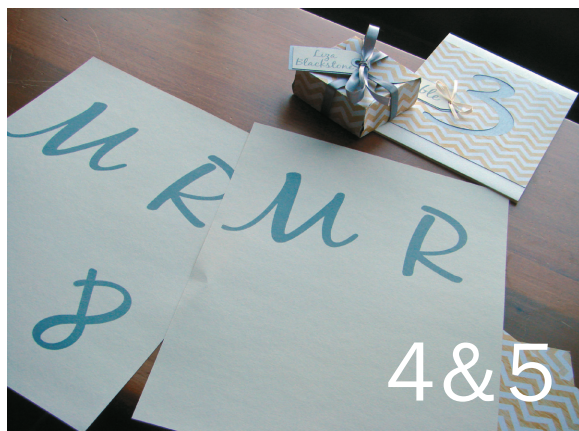
ron border.

3. Depending on how you want your border to look (I like mine to finish zagging upward on the ends) trim the excess paper from the sides of each piece.
4. In your word processing program, open a new file and type your letters and ampersand. Choose your font, color, and size (I used Blackjack, grey, and 280pt). If you have trouble printing them all on one page because of their size, I recommend adding another column to your page and minimizing the margins.
5. Print out two Ms, two Rs, and one ampersand onto your coordinating cardstock.
6. Cut your cardstock into 5" x 4.25" rect-



# WEDDING BANNER

As seen on page 44.



- angles around the Ms and the Rs, making sure the printed letters are centered in that space. (I find that cutting out a 5" x 4.25" template from a piece of scratch paper and laying it over the letters helps with this step.
7. Cut a 3.5" x 4" rectangle around your ampersand.
  8. Center each letter piece onto its corresponding patterned piece and drop the lettered piece to the bottom, lining it up with the bottom of the chevron border. Keeping the two cards in place, flip them over and trace the chevron onto the back of the letter paper with a pencil.
  9. Cut along your pencil lines. Repeat on all four pieces.
  10. Line up the bottom of your ampersand

paper with a chevron border and do the same, trace the back with a pencil and then cut along your pencil lines.

11. If you want to do any stamping or embellishing of your banner, I recommend doing that now before you adhere the letters to the patterned paper.
12. Place your lettered paper at the top center of each patterned piece and adhere the letters to the patterned paper with double-sided tape.
13. Punch your holes, two for each banner element. I recommend placing the holes in the corners of the lettered paper. Make sure the holes are uniformly spaced with the top of each piece, it will look much nicer when it is hung.

14. String your ribbon through the holes and your banner is complete!

## PRODUCTS USED

Dear Lizzy Neopolitan Paper, Paper Accents Smooth Cream Cardstock, Scotch Permanent Double-Sided Tape, Colorbox Wild Hare Pigment Ink, Hero Arts "My Happy" Stamp Set, May Arts Double-Faced Satin Ribbon HA31, Stampin' Up "With Love" Stamp.

Carson offers customized banners and other wedding decor (like the gift favor box and table numbers pictured above) in her shop at [bluebuttonpress.etsy.com](http://bluebuttonpress.etsy.com) and more tutorials for other paper products on her blog at [bluebuttonpress.wordpress.com](http://bluebuttonpress.wordpress.com). She hopes that you enjoy your beautiful wedding day and all the love that comes with it! ▣





# Throw your Own: Weddings at Home

→ by Ross Sveback, photos by Hubert Bonnet

**Y**our wedding is supposed to be a celebration, not a devastation. When Andy approached me about doing a spread for Lavender showing how I would throw a wedding, I was immediately inspired by the four seasons and how we often forget to let the world around us contribute to the celebration of commitment. Throw away the thought of needing to insert a rainbow icon or a lavender-themed splashes, in fact throw away any preconceived idea of what you are expected to do.

The ideas set forth here are meant to inspire, use them as is or as a springboard and personalize them to your tastes. I sought to provide you the reader with relatable things that even a novice can do. I also wanted to cover various lifestyles in the following pages, understanding that different tastes and budgets exist. I tried to keep those tastes together, yet juxtapose various elements to show how you can splurge on select things and still have a grand presentation. You will note a few similarities with my style, the first being the use of clear glassware. I prefer clear so it can showcase the beverage. You will also note a use of *faux bois*, which means "false wood" in French. I am an avid collector of this and actually have my own private label dinnerware collection made for me in England, which I use for the Autumn inspiration.

Floral pieces were all done by Michelle Pham, who owns Whimsy in Bloom. I believe the direction she went on from the season inspiration was spot on, using uncommon elements such as driftwood and succulents for Spring, moss for Autumn and gilded eucalyptus for Winter.

Invitations were found at Papyrus all using their Chequerboard collections. The breadth of products available in each design was mind blowing and I frankly was impressed by the level of detail and personal service I received.

In an effort to go one step further, I found some amazing beverage inspirations where I thought the visual of the product was cohesive with the color palate of the season. I chose Risata Sparkling Moscato d'Asti for Spring and Risata Il Rosso for Winter. *Risata* means "laughter" in Italian, the price point is within everyone's reach and frankly an amazing value not to mention how they taste. I thought the Moscato blue bottle brought cohesion to the Spring color palate and the Il Rosso red brought elegance to the Winter inspiration. The Il Rosso is actually very unique as it is a sweet, sparkling red. For Summer and Autumn I chose baby bottles of Astoria Moscato and Prosecco. Moscato for Summer since the golden packaging mirrored the bright, yellow tones of the season. The Astoria Processo brown bottle brought a gentle, luxe element to the Autumn table. Both come in full-size as well, I thought the baby bottles were an interesting take on how to serve your sparkling wine.

Placed on each setting is a bar of seasonal soap from my LUX handmade soap collection. Using these as favors is a useful way of reminding those of your wedding, personalized with your names and date makes it all that more special.

**Spring** was inspired by my Grandmother's collection of Lu-Ray dishes in pastels of yellow, blue and green. I love having her collection now and was so happy to find that Crate & Barrel now carries a collection in the same tones called Marin, yet in amazing array of durable pieces. As with Lu-Ray, you can opt to choose one →



# spring TABLE





# *summer* TABLE





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# *Fall* TABLE





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color or throw caution to the wind by mixing and matching. Crate & Barrel became my muse for Spring. Since we were mixing and matching dishes, I chose to keep the look eclectic by mixing and matching glassware from Crate & Barrel as well. Many folks go in together to purchase wedding gifts for couples these days, so I wanted to show how one might surprise the couple by giving them their tabletop registry pieces fashioned into the shape of a wedding cake. Displayed on a cake stand the couple can use as well, it elevates the grand gesture all the more.

To continue with the theme of Spring I was reminded of my garden and the tender vegetables that begin to grow. Spring peas and tender carrots were the inspiration for the cake. A ginger-spiced carrot cake decorated with a vanilla-bean infused cream, cheese frosting I then tinted green to continue on the Spring theme. Piped carrots laying in graham cracker dirt and Spring peas piped in their shells provide guests with an idea of what lie beneath without being overly literal.

The Smörgåstårter, or Sandwich Cake, you see in the photos is like a family-style tea sandwich. What is nice about this sandwich is it's completely customizable. Sandwiched between the layers of the boule are a salami-infused cream spread, cucumber, ham, parsley, beef and Parmesan. Iced with a cream and goat cheese frosting, then decorated with chopped romaine, it adds drama while providing a light meal which we tend to eat come Spring.

To feed my personal obsession with faux bois, I found these amazing Spring green invitations at Papyrus with a faux bois embossed background which added some texture detail without being overly loud. Spring to me is a gentle season; it is a time of quiet growth and calm. Think of tender foods, delicate patterns and muted hues here.

**Summer** to me is the season of mature growth, everything is alive and blooming. Summer manifests itself with big, bold colors which is why I chose yellow as the theme. Yet you can go overboard with yellow since it is such an aggressive color which is why I used it as an accent, coupled with white since it reminds me of linens hanging out to dry. I found this wonderful, new beaded tabletop collection from Target which is within anyone's price point – and it's porcelain! I chose the beaded pieces to bring cohesion to the beaded flatware from Williams-Sonoma.

I chose Perigord pressed glassware ➡

Continued on page 86

# winter TABLE







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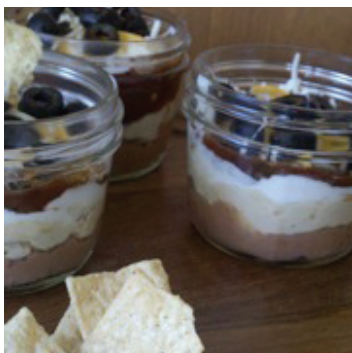
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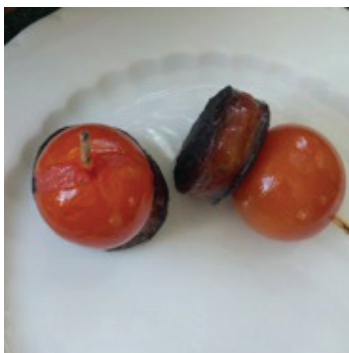
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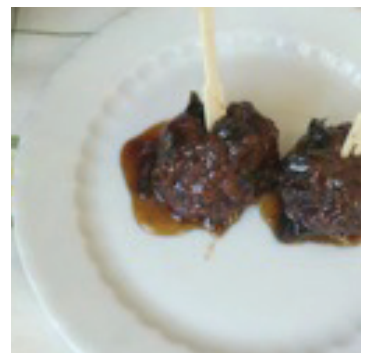
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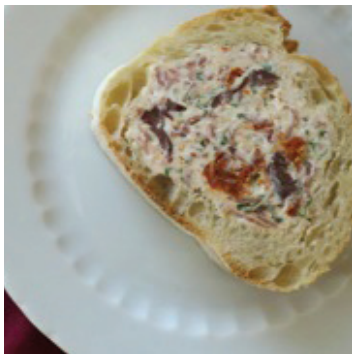
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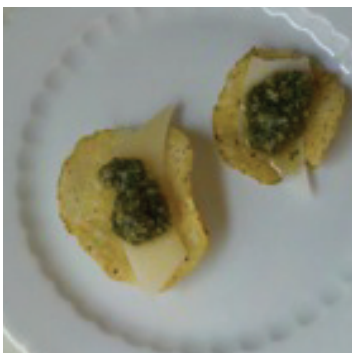
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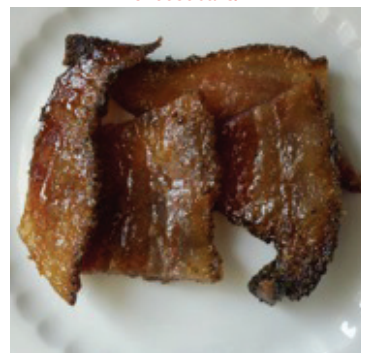
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**Location:** Walker Art Center, Rachel Joyce: [www.walkerart.org](http://www.walkerart.org)

**Fashion:** Andrea's Vintage Bridal: [www.vintagebridal.biz](http://www.vintagebridal.biz)  
 Joynoele: [www.joynoele.com](http://www.joynoele.com)  
 LULA Vintage Clothing: [www.lulavintagewear.com](http://www.lulavintagewear.com)  
 The Wedding Shoppe: [www.weddingshoppeinc.com](http://www.weddingshoppeinc.com)

**Models:** Sadie Bazar-Leidy, Mel Cruz-Lleras, Nikolina Erickson-Gunther, Elizabeth Hünstad, Brian Johnston, Catherine Lleras, Jessica Madole, Jason Rebeck

**Stylist:** Alyson Newquist: [www.alysonnewquist.com](http://www.alysonnewquist.com)

**Floral:** Flora Bella: [www.florabellastudio.com](http://www.florabellastudio.com)

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 Sari Green, Master Stylist & Creative Colorist at Studio 411 Salon Spa:  
[sari@stylebysari.com](mailto:sari@stylebysari.com)

**Jewelry:** Rare Bird Jewelry: [www.rarebirdstudio.com](http://www.rarebirdstudio.com)

**Wedding Banner:** Blue Button Press: [www.etsy.com/shop/bluebuttonpress](http://www.etsy.com/shop/bluebuttonpress)

**Produced by:** Andy Lien

**Photography by:** Mike Hnida

Blue and grey pull together a wedding party of the best gal pals standing up for their guys. Avoiding--but not completely eschewing--identically matching men's outfits, the grey sets the tone while Brian wears the tuxedo version of Jason's suit. Jessica and Catherine carry the blue from the grooms' accessories to their dresses, which can easily be worn by a bride or two as well. Fashion by The Wedding Shoppe.





# Wedding Fashion

→ by Shane Lueck, photos by Mike Hnida

Wedding bells are ringing and the stress is setting in. Planning the big event is picking up and it can be difficult to settle on one idea.

"I've seen a lot of stress over weddings," Hayley Bush of LULA Vintage said. "It seems that perhaps it should be more fun and joyous. When you make it your own, I think that can happen."

As far as dresses are concerned, it is all about the layers. Multiple layers and textures are big trends seen at Fall 2012 Bridal Fashion Week in New York this year. Brides today are leaning toward more romantic, floor-length, flowing dresses made of combinations of soft fabrics such as chiffon, organza, or tulle. Of course with Kate Middleton as the number one bride of 2011, many designers this year are featuring long sleeves and lace to mimic the royal wedding gown.

Many designers have included dresses in off-white and pastels in their collections. Bush noticed this colorful trend emerging in her customers' buying habits. "I'm getting more people not just getting a traditional white dress and tux," Bush said. "Overall, it seems things are much more casual."

Joy Teiken, of the Joynoelle atelier, agreed. "I'm seeing a lot of my brides adding color to their dress," Teiken said. "It's not strictly white or cream, but adding a little color to add a little fun flair. Maybe more subtle colors like lavender, blush pink or soft yellow. Not too loud."

Vintage styles are experiencing resurgence in demand lately. Fashion as a whole has been taking nods from past eras recently, so it is to be expected that weddings wouldn't be far behind. "There has always been a contingent of those who chose more vintage [styles] for their weddings as tradition is an implicit aspect of weddings," Bush said. "However, now it seems vintage is inspiring a mainstream audience."

Andrea Erickson, owner of Andrea's Vintage Bridal, began her boutique when she began





Note the differences between the pieces (above): Brian's tuxedo simply has a shiny lapel and fabric-covered buttons that separates it from the simplicity of Jason's suit. Different tie colors or accessories can create distinction between the grooms or pull together the apparel. Black versions of a suit on Jason and tuxedo on Brian (right) offer a more evening elegance to the affair with brown discreetly providing an accent color in accessories. Fashion by The Wedding Shoppe.

looking for a vintage gown for her own big day. "And who wants just the dress? It works so well to have vintage shoes, beaded bags, glam jewelry and cake toppers all under one roof," Erickson wrote on her website.

Bridal boutiques across the board agree that many couples are going the vintage route. Teiken noticed couples taking the trend outdoors. "People really like the vintage flair – getting married in a barn or outside and having the whole vintage aspect."

Erickson draws special attention to the plus-size shopping experience. "Vintage can be ridiculously tiny in sizing," she noted. "Our selection of larger sizes is certainly smaller, but it is choice."

Servicing clients up to size 20, Erickson commented that she is able to restructure most dresses up to three sizes larger - a novelty unique to this shop. "We not only remake dresses, but we are committed to increasing our inventory of luscious vintage reproduction dresses in plus sizes."

With this vintage trend is an overall move to integrate old, sentimental objects into the big day. "People are bringing in their grandfather's tie to use as a sash or their grandmothers jewelry, which I take apart and then use as beads in the dress," Teiken said. "It's a special time, so to bring something in from someone who is really important to them is a fun way to honor the loved ones in their lives."

In a sea of low-cut, strapless, or open-back dresses, Teiken noticed many brides are choosing to cover up – and rightly so. Stylish capes and bolero style jackets are being put out by designers. For the colder weather, wraps of velvet, heavy satin, or pashmina keep the chill away, whereas summer weddings are featuring lighter fabrics to reduce sun exposure on bare arms.





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Bridal fashion (above) of two distinct eras, harmonizing--but not competing--with each other due to similar elements and tones. On Elizabeth is a 1960s brocade sheath with beaded bodice, with 1950s rhinestone jewelry. Nikolina wears a 1940s wartime silk gown with illusion neckline and a 1930s Belgian-made beaded headpiece. Fashion and accessories by Andrea's Vintage Bridal.

Brides can search through history to match their styles without compromising a cohesive presentation as a couple (right). Nikolina is wearing a long, formal 1960s Regency-style beaded lace gown with attached train and daisy chain headband which complement Elizabeth's 1950s ivory satin tea-length dress and multi-colored silk floral bandeau headpiece. Fashion and accessories by Andrea's Vintage Bridal.

Bush understands the differences in seasonal looks well, as she switches out inventory with the time of year. "The items in the store are appropriate for the current season," she said. "Sometimes that makes it tough in January if you are looking for a June wedding. I constantly refill and restock my store. This means two things. First, that you should you come back regularly. It also means that you should get what you like when you see it because it could easily be gone."

When planning the wedding, each boutique offers something different. At Joynoelle, the couple has the option of choosing between in-house designs, or consulting with Teiken for a one-of-a-kind piece. "They get to be part of the process," Teiken said. "There are a lot of the dresses out there that look exactly the same, and they don't want to be a cookie-cutter bride. They really want to show their personality with their partner. Having their dress made was the second most important thing of the whole process. The first was marrying the person they love, second is the dress-making process. We design the dress together."







Joynoelle adorns Sadie in exquisite looks and feels, each appealing to different desires and aesthetics. Jessica models elegance from The Wedding Shoppe.





Joynoelle adorns Sadie in exquisite looks and feels, each appealing to different desires and aesthetics. Jessica models elegance from The Wedding Shoppe.



Options abound for brides--whether to go more traditional or more edgy and anywhere in-between.

Teiken also noted a certain surprise element that can go into the wedding day. She has designed completely different looks for a couple without the other one knowing what the love of their life is going to be wearing.

"It is important to look good together, but not match," Teiken said. "Have elements that bring out your own personalities but also show the personality of your partner. You don't want to look like groomsmen or bridesmaids, identical, you want to look like the bride or groom."

It is typical to go into a salon to order the fashions for the wedding and, six months to a year later, the couple is finally able to bring them home. However, many boutiques are catering to a different experience. Andrea's Vintage Bridal boasts that their staff does their best to accommodate very last minute shopping. According to Erickson, there is "no waiting for your dress to come in...your dress is ready for you now."

Bush noticed an increase in couple wanting to be more involved in the planning process. "Overall, it seems things are much more casual with a little D.I.Y. thrown in too," she said.



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Mix it up with new and old, couture and closet. Jessica takes a vintage party dress by LULA and goes bridal with a sassy attitude boosted by ribbon lace-up heels.

Catherine and Mel (right) reenact their own wedding in a flowing gown by The Wedding Shoppe and a vintage suit and tie from LULA.



Catherine rocks a Joynelle opera coat with chunky jewelry by Rare Bird Jewelry.



Teiken's observations were along the same line. "People are really careful with their money, they're wanting to be a bigger part of the planning process and possibly doing some of the things themselves - whether it's doing their invitations or doing their own flowers."

So, what is the first step in the planning process? Each boutique offers different advice. Erickson emphasized the importance of consulting with her clients.

At LULA, Bush recommends that you know your size. "The answer 'I don't know' is not a legitimate answer," she said. "If you are old enough to tie the knot with the right person, you are old enough to measure your waist. Overall, I would say to have an idea of what you'd like, but don't get super fixated on it. Roll with what you find."

Teiken stresses the importance of working with people that you feel an upfront connection with. "It's such a special time that you should be able to show your own personality and the people you work with should be able to understand that."





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(Top clockwise) Mix it up with new and old, couture and closet. Jessica takes a vintage party dress by LULA and goes bridal with a sassy attitude boosted by ribbon lace-up heels. Catherine rocks a Joynoele opera coat with chunky jewelry by Rare Bird Jewelry.

Joynoele offers an opera coat option for a Mother of the To-Be-Married.

Sadie wears a more edgy overcoat with a hint of Joynoele's ruby dress beneath.



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# Danielle Everine: Runway Bride

Danielle Everine is a Minneapolis designer who was featured on Season 9 of *Project Runway* on Lifetime. Her clothing is sculptural and one of her aims is to subvert gender and beauty standards. Married just a month ago toward the end of February, we asked Danielle all about her own wedding style.

→ by Bianca Catibog





### **How would you define your design style?**

Approaching design from an artist's perspective, I work from abstract concepts of autonomy, fortitude and grace. Modern day heroines inspire my collections. The apparel tells tales of odysseys and times of strength. Favoring natural fibers, the clothes have an ease that recalls a bygone era. Equal parts elegant and utilitarian, my garments suit any woman with a stylishly adventurous lifestyle. I have always been interested in clothing as a method of expression. An effort to redefine notions of beauty is at the root of my work

### **What draws you toward the classically elegant genre?**

Society today is lacking a formality that once was integral to daily life. Elevating ones outfit encourages a more gracious attitude.

### **Who or what has influenced you most with regards to your outlook on fashion?**

I am inspired by literary and film references, my Minnesota environment and the desire to create utilitarian and beautiful clothes. I often design an entire collection based on a series of films or historical figures—Clint Eastwood westerns and Annie Oakley for example. I dream about what modern day heroines might do upon a sailing vessel, pulling imagery from Moby Dick and Shackleton's voyage. Enthusiastic about cycling, sailing, travel and all around adventuring, I create clothes that make one feel beautifully stylish and empowered to embark on any journey.

### **What is it like designing something for your self?**

In a sense, I am always designing for myself. My collections offer a glimpse into my imagination and I just have to hope that others will take that ride with me.

### **Tell us a little about your wedding dress. It was beautiful!**

Thank you! The dress was a winter white to tan ombre matte satin silk. I hand beaded and embroidered the collar with pewter and antique bronze beads. The blouse top had cap sleeves, was nipped in at the waist, partially open at the back with mother of pearl button closures. A small leather buckle detail marked the back of the waistband. I wore a coat of my design over the dress for our outdoor ceremony. A winter white wool calf length coat with pleating around the waist,

a fur collar and leather and bronze buckle.

### **Any advice you have for anyone designing his/her own wedding attire?**

Stick with a silhouette and fabric texture you are comfortable with. Most importantly, find something that is flattering for your body type. It is so essential to look and feel great in your wedding clothes, look for something that really suits you. Take some risk with nontraditional details. I didn't hesitate to use leather and bronze rivets on my silk dress. They were small elements compared to the overall dress, but are very true to my style.

### **Tell us about your bridesmaids' dresses. How did you decide on the style?**

Jenny Carle, an incredible St. Paul based fashion designer (JennyCarle.com), designed the bridesmaids dresses. From the beginning, I had a style in mind for my three bridesmaids – floor length, blousey and nipped in at the waist. Recalling Carle's F/W 2011 lookbook, I knew she had recently designed some very similar dresses. Luckily, she was available on short notice and had the perfect dress in her repertoire.

### **What or who inspired aesthetic theme of your wedding?**

Of late, I have been working with themes of trans-Atlantic travel and frozen Arctic landscapes. The mood of the wedding took a historical note with touches of modern design.

### **What would you recommend for same-sex brides and grooms? Matching? Complementary colors?**

Same-sex couples should stick true to their individual style. On one's wedding day, you should be a heightened version of yourself. If one normally dresses in a more traditionally "feminine" way, maybe go with an ornate outfit. A dress or embroidered suit are good choices. If more "masculine", stick with a classic look. Keep it simple with great details. If both had a similar style, go with coordinating outfits. Currently, I have the pleasure of helping fellow designer, Mackenzie Labine create her wedding gown for her summer ceremony. Her partner, Lyza Dungo, and her plan to marry this June in the Walker Sculpture Garden. Mackenzie's dress reflects her everyday glamorous girly style. She has designed a semi sheer lace bustier and tiered

organza skirt with a hi-low hem. The best element are her killer sparkle encrusted platform spike heels! Lyza is more of a t-shirt and jeans kind of girl, so has chosen to wear a suit.

### **Did you intend to incorporate hometown love in your big day?**

Absolutely! The Twin Cities have an incredible wealth of design talent. We have so many amazing and generous friends here, we wouldn't have been able to pull this off without them. I had specific ideas of what I was looking for, and knew some things would need to be custom made for us. From hair and make-up styling to the beer, our wedding was entirely home grown. Mackenzie Labine from Hair Police (who is also an hair and make-up master) Lola Teeny and Micah Savage from Mezzanine Salon and Margaret Lane beautified our hair and make-up. Jenny Carle designed the bridesmaids dresses, Bionic Unicorn designed the jewelry and some great friends helped with the fur hats! Fellow designers and incredible musicians Rachel Blomgren and Lela Horst-Baumann serenaded with the harp and clarinet. Friends from Northbound smokehouse and brewpub (expected to open this spring in the Standish neighborhood) made the beer. One of the five craft brews, a Scotch Ale style winter warmer, was developed specially for us!

### **Are you the mastermind of your husband's wedding attire as well?**

David is very stylish on his own. He happened to already own a Brooks Brothers tuxedo, I just encouraged him to wear it!

### **Do you still feel the imaginary pressure of Tim Gunn's critique now that you're not bound by specific criteria?**

Tim Gunn is such a sweet mentor. Always encouraging yet objective he instructed us to step back and be aware of the whole picture. It can be difficult to employ while under stress, so it's great advice to try to remember.

### **Post-Project Runway, how do you feel about designing back in Minnesota?**

I love the freedom to design whatever I like and the time to be inspired by the world around me! □

Photography of Danielle and David's wedding on pages 54, 56, and 57 is by Rivets & Roses.









A winter wedding for a runway bride. Photo by Rivets & Roses Photography



# Beauty Isn't Frivolous

→ by Meghan O'Connor

LOVE IS about the inner beauty, the meshing of two personalities that complete each other to their fullest form. The need to feel beautiful on your wedding day is not frivolous. It's just as important as sending your invitations out on time, finding the perfect wedding day location, and choosing the right person to stand next to you. The photos taken at your wedding are the tokens to this sacred day. And, if that giant zit doesn't go away soon, that is all you are going to be staring at...Photo-shop only goes so far.

With weddings being planned further in advance, there is no need to fret! Aside from scheduling your hair appointment and pedicure before the big day, here are some other ways to make you feel flawless and confident on what is sure to be the best day of your life.

## Teeth Whitening

The saying "a picture is worth a thousand words," rings true right alongside the wedding bells. There is no need for those thousand words to be reminiscent to your late night coffee binges or slight nicotine addiction when you see your yellow-tinted smile. Getting your teeth whitened is relatively inexpensive and will make all the difference on your wedding day. Grand Dental located in Minneapolis has both in-office and take home whitening care. Grand Dental is proud to have the highest customer care that helps in procuring overall health and self-esteem.

## Hair Removal

Unwanted hair can cause anyone to become anxious. Your wedding day is no time to be paranoid about guests scaling you up and eyeing that peach

fuzz on your upper lip that you have been meaning to take care of. The industry of hair removal is growing, and has made a large take-off in the wedding world. No+Vello is an international hair removal company with a location in Uptown Minneapolis.

No+Vello uses IPL (Intense Pulsed Light), an innovative, reliable and safe method of removing unwanted hair. It is the most effective and least painful method among other hair removal techniques and gentler on the skin while being more versatile in treating a broader range of skin tones and hair colors with better results. The removal process takes place with 6-8 sessions lasting no more than an hour and sometimes less than 15 minutes for small areas such as the upper lip or chin.

"We are still young so we haven't seen very much of it yet, but weddings are definitely something we are exploring,"

said Emmanuelle Hardy, owner of No+Vello. "In fact we are opening up a new location, which is going to be doing a joint deal."

The space they will be moving into has a large area for weddings to take place. When the deal finalizes No+Vello is going to have a package discount along with the wedding space.

"I think it will be a really great addition to our company," Hardy said.

## Weight Loss

It comes as no surprise that one of the first things on people's minds when approaching a wedding is how their body is going to look in that dress or suit, not to mention the honeymoon. Instead of looking for a dramatic "cleanse" of only juice and water for two weeks, try going for something healthier, and a method that is proven to show results.

Medifast is a weight loss tool that supplies you with pre-portioned meals that "look good and taste even better." These meals are created to be hearty and healthy so that you aren't rummaging through your cabinet 20 minutes later looking for a snack. The meals are so quick and easy to prepare that you won't have any excuse not to be eating healthy.

"We design a diet that is appropriate to their health and lifestyle," Medifast Center Director Gina Carlson said. "Most people come us about 6 months prior to the wedding, wanting to lose 30-50 pounds."

This is a program that works quickly but isn't unhealthy for the participants.

"In about 6 or 7 weeks you can lose 20 pounds," Carlson said.

Crash dieting doesn't work for anyone. A weight loss plan like Medifast is a great way to see results quickly, but to do it in a healthy way.

## Body Contouring

Feeling comfortable in your own skin on your wedding day is the recipe for a confident couple. Don't go altering your dress to cover up the big scar on your knee, or tailoring your suit in just a way to hide your shape. Body contouring is a virtually pain-free procedure that can eliminate those things about your body that make you feel less like yourself. The Metropolitan Clinic located in Edina is a wellness clinic seeking to give all clients the benefits the tagline insinuates, "Look better, Be better, Feel better." They achieve this through a holistic philosophy of health and wellness.

Inner beauty is the curator of a wedding, but everyone deserves to feel perfect on this day. □





# Honeymoon Travel: Puerto Rico

→ by Kristin Thompson



Photo courtesy of <http://www.sxc.hu/>

IF PUERTO Rico is your honeymoon destination, you can cross “get passports” off your pre-wedding to-do list. The island, a territory of the United States, makes for an easy tropical getaway. Though Spanish is the lingua franca, English is spoken widely. The capital city of San Juan is a convenient home base from which to explore attractions around the 40-by-100 mile island.

Most visitors begin in Old San Juan, a compact historic district nestled between the Bay of San Juan and the Caribbean Sea. The area is book-ended by two forts, San Cris-

tobal and San Felipe del Morro (“El Morro”), which protected the settlement in the age of pirates and high-seas hijinks.

Join the locals in a stroll along the Paseo De La Princesa, a promenade along the waterfront between El Morro and the cruise ship docks. Tucked into the old city ramparts above the Paseo, you’ll find small quiet parks with enchanting views. A few blocks inland, the colonial Cathedral of San Juan Bautista is one of the oldest buildings in San Juan, and the second oldest cathedral in the Americas. The small square across the street provides

a shady place to sit for a moment and watch the bustling foot traffic on Calle del Cristo—also a shopping street.

Adjacent to the cathedral square, Hotel El Convento is a luxuriously renovated former Carmelite convent. If you’re not staying the night, you can take in the ambiance (along with a pina colada or mojito) at the bar of El Picoteo, the restaurant overlooking the interior courtyard.

Up the hill and a bit off the beaten path, airy St. Germain Bistro & Café offers light European-style fare. The prix-fixe brunch →





Photos courtesy of <http://www.sxc.hu/>



on Sundays features mimosas, fruit salad, and delicate egg entrees.

To absorb some local flavor away from cruise ship day-trippers, check out the Ocean Park neighborhood, about halfway between the airport and Old San Juan. Intimate guesthouses are scattered throughout the area; gay-owned Andalucía Guest House is a budget-minded option a few blocks from the beach. Speaking of the beach, it's wonderful here: accessible by quiet side streets and fronted mainly by homes, the wide sandy expanse has a low-key, private feel.

After a day at the beach, refuel at La B de Burro, a casual hangout with an unexpected Mexican *lucha libre* wrestling theme. The fare includes simple, well-executed favorites like tacos and tortas. Don't miss the tamarind ginger margarita.

Nearby Kasalta is another Ocean Park standby. Beloved by locals, this bakery, deli, and café serves up everything from morning café con leche to tapas and wine in the eve-

ning. Even President Obama stopped in for a medianoche sandwich last June.

Ready to test your marital bond with a cooperative adventure? Take an evening kayak tour of one of Puerto Rico's unique bioluminescent bays. Laguna Grande, near the fishing village of Las Croabas, is the most accessible from San Juan. You'll join a tour group and get outfitted on the waterfront, then paddle a calm channel canopied by mangroves to reach the lagoon. Thanks to harmless micro-organisms, the water glows with the touch of a paddle or your hand, and positively glitters in a light sprinkle. The effect is magical on a dark night.

About a dozen operators offer similar tours, including Yokahu Kayak Trips and Kayaking Puerto Rico. Some will provide transportation from San Juan or combination tours to other destinations like El Yunque National Forest.

Puerto Rico's second largest city, Ponce, is a reasonable day trip from San Juan. The

90-minute drive features stunning views of the island's interior mountains. Central Ponce is a maze of narrow streets surrounding the cathedral square. Across from the cathedral, indulge in a coconut or mango cone at King's Ice Cream. Several blocks away, Café Café Cocina Criolla Espresso Bar offers a full menu of local breakfast and lunch specialties.

Visit the Museo de Arte de Ponce for a cool and cultured respite on this hot, dry side of the island. Renovated and expanded in 2010, the museum houses a surprisingly broad collection of European art from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, as well as contemporary Latin American art.

Back in San Juan, La Playita restaurant provides a memorable setting for your last night on the island. Don't miss your last chance to sample island favorite mofongo, a dish of mashed fried plantains stuffed with meat or shrimp. Dine on the waterfront deck overlooking Isla Verde beach as waves roll in beneath your feet. ▣



# A Honeymoon in Beijing

→ by Simone H. Pierce



Photos by Simone H. Pierce.

DESPITE BEIJING'S exquisite food, lush landscapes and rich history, it is not often considered a honeymoon destination. And admittedly, it's not for everyone. Even if you pick up a Chinese language guide, your strained attempts usually will not be understood, and most Chinese (apart from the staff at tourist and business-friendly hotels) don't speak a word of English. However, if your trip to Beijing consists of tour busses and large hotels, you won't have much problem. And if not, many tour books have convenient Chinese translations of destinations, so you can simply point, and your taxi driver will

get you there. Beijing is also considered one of the more gay-friendly destinations in Asia. In fact, GLBT-friendly tour companies like Purple Dragon ([purpledrag.com](http://purpledrag.com)) make it a priority to patronize gay-owned restaurants, bars and hotels.

I have been told often that China is either a country you love or you hate. I will spell it out more clearly: if you are a person who likes to be in control at all times, you might not enjoy your trip as much as you would if you were open to adventure. Having a wonderful experience in China requires that you go with the flow, put your trust in strang-

ers, adjust to foreign customs and embrace a very different cuisine. If this experience is why you travel, you will absolutely adore China. And having that incredible adventure with your soulmate is an experience you will never forget.

One of the country's supreme highlights is its food. Fragrant, spicy, sensual and more varied than you ever would have imagined, every meal is just as memorable as Beijing's numerous attractions. Lamb is common, as is almost every kind of kebob, but if you can find a good hot pot place, take full advantage of it. Peking Duck restaurants are worth searching →





Photos by Simone H. Pierce.



out as well—the smoked duck retains a crispy skin, but the meat inside is incredibly moist. You don't have to pay top dollar for an amazing meal, either. Some of the best food you will find is *not* in the most expensive restaurants. In fact, one of the best dinners I had was in a shack. A husband and wife team ran the place, and he must have welded his makeshift charcoal grill out of scrap metal, but the aromas that came wafting down the street drew cars and passersby every night.

Like Egypt and its Pyramids, a visit to China would not be complete without making a day trip to see the Great Wall. Ironically, it wasn't a popular tourist destination until Nixon visited the wall at Badaling. Different locations on the wall offer different experiences—some areas have been maintained more than others, and those are typically more crowded. However, at Mutianyu the wall is in good shape, unspoiled by tourists, and a freshly-built alpine slide rewards the weary with a quick ride back down to the village.

If you have a limited time to spend in Beijing, the other must-see area contains both the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square. Tiananmen Square is known to younger Chinese people only as a titanic landmark containing Mao's Mausoleum, and fringed by celebratory museums and government buildings. One should be careful not to mention anything *else* while you're there, because secret police are rumored to haunt the place, on the lookout for any seditious talk from for-

eigners regarding the 1989 crackdown.

To the North, Mao's portrait clings firmly to what was once the main entrance to the Emperor's palace. We call it the Forbidden City, but locals refer to it merely as the Palace Museum. One could get lost inside its vastness—it is, in fact, the largest palace on earth—however, a Chinese fondness for symmetry helps one navigate the grounds. While there, have your pictures taken in front of the Tree of Lovers—two cypress trees whose branches have become forever entwined.

The Forbidden City is rivaled in splendor and size by the Summer Palace: the lavish power center of the iron-fisted Dowager Empress Cixi. The Summer Palace surrounds a gigantic man-made lake—on it, one can still find a strange, non-functional marble boat built solely for Cixi's enjoyment out of funds dedicated to fortifying the country's navy. Unfortunately, the British quickly overpowered them and seized Hong Kong as their prize.

After seeing a few sites, the traditional, somewhat formulaic Chinese architecture can begin to be a little numbing. However, Beijing's Lama Temple, Confucius Temple and Academy (also known as the Kong Miao), and the Temple of Heaven are all worth a visit. Of these, the Temple of Heaven is the largest and the most architecturally diverse, with a system of alters dedicated to the harvest. Additionally, the Ancient Observatory is a little bit off the beaten path, but as a Mongol dynasty creation from the year 1442,

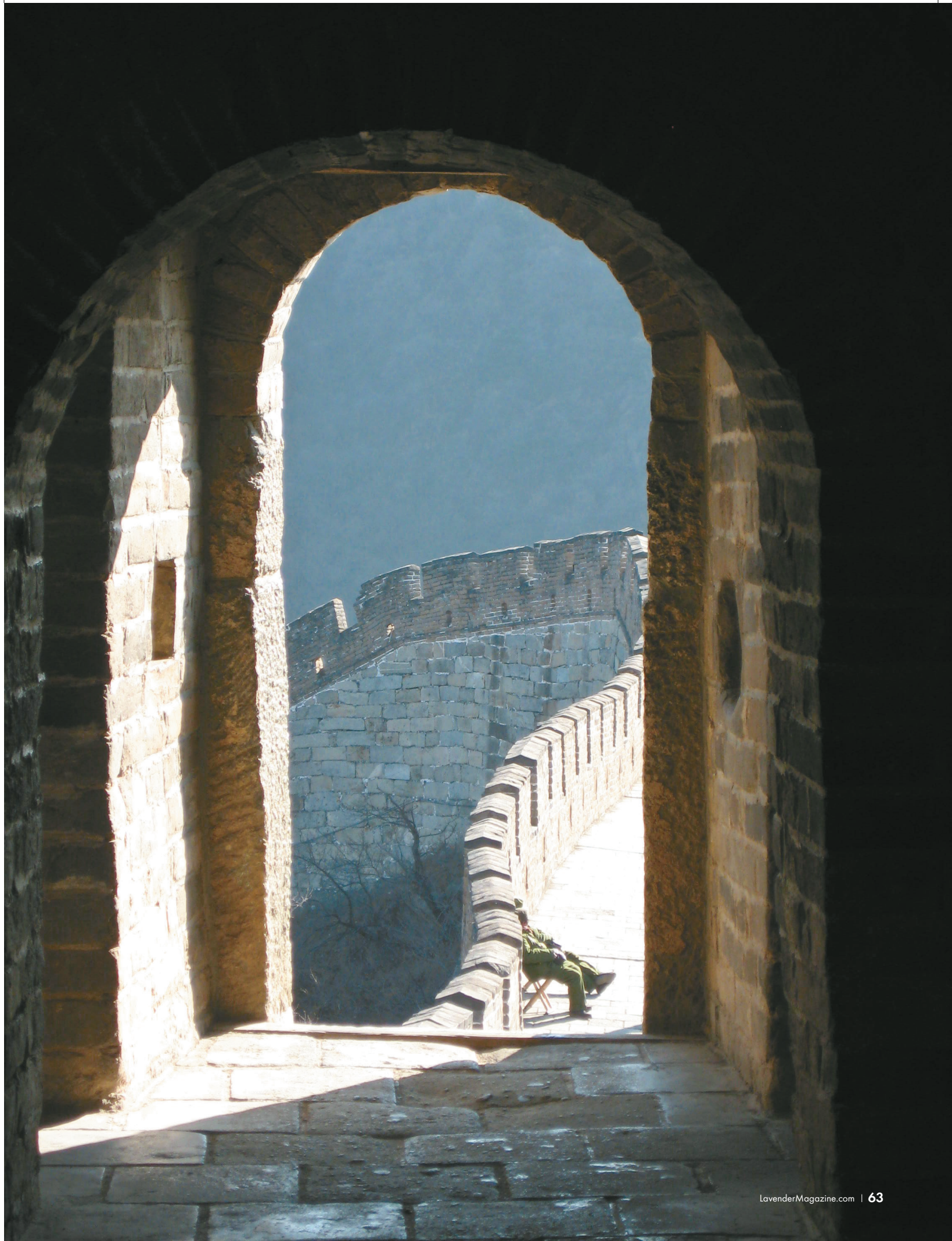
it also offers a break from the same red studded doors and pagoda-style roofs. Bronze astronomical instruments are on display on the tower's roof and along its grounds, and a gorgeous star map and water clock can be found in the adjacent museum.

If you decide to try baijiu—a strong, funky-tasting liqueur—the best time would be in the evening before heading to Ghost Street. Festooned with red lanterns, this street is famous for its spicy, adventurous foods. Anything from deep-fried scorpion to starfish can be found on a stick, waiting for the curious diner. But late night eats of every kind can also be found here, including spicy hot pot, lamb and lobster.

Beyond Beijing's wondrous sights and culinary riches, I found its people to be its real treasure. Affectionate and generous, if a bit pushy and naïve (just like us), it only takes a good meal and some baijiu to make a friend for life. Our countries may not always see eye to eye, but political dramas need not separate two peoples who are more alike than they are different.

Best of all, a honeymoon that takes you completely out of your normal experience allows the two of you to learn things you'd never otherwise learn about each other. You'll take risks together, navigate the Beijing subway together, take in the glory of a Chinese foot massage together, and experience only the first of many adventures as a married couple. □







→ by Andy Lien



**1.** Diamond double wrap ring by David Heston: Sterling silver with pave set diamonds (\$3080); Double wrap ring by David Heston: Sterling silver (\$1400). **2.** Shadow wide ring by Sarah Graham: Blackened steel with 18K white gold and white diamonds (\$2400); Blackened steel, 18K yellow gold, and 18K white gold with diamonds (\$2510); Shadow narrow ring by Sarah Graham: Blackened steel with 18K yellow gold and cognac diamonds (\$780); Confluence ring by Sarah Graham: Blackened steel with 18K yellow gold and diamond (\$935); Clover 5-wire ring by Sarah Graham (\$2510). **3.** Irregular band by Todd Reed: Palladium and sterling silver with black diamonds (\$1650); Wide band ring by Todd Reed: Sterling silver with autumn diamonds (\$1980). **4.** Meteorite ring by Jacob Albee: Meteorite with 4.78 ct aquamarine, diamonds and 24k yellow gold inlay (\$7700); Meteorite ring by Jacob Albee: Meteorite with 24k yellow gold inlay and white diamond (\$1435). **5.** Ring by Fullerton Bahr: 14K, 18K yellow, rose, and green gold with yellow diamond (\$4740); Ring by Fullerton Bahr: Sterling silver, 14K, 18K yellow, rose, and green gold (\$3050). **6.** Eternity ring by Suzy Landa: 18K white gold, diamond (\$5500); Faceted wide ring by Suzy Landa: 18K white gold (\$3015). Stephen Vincent Design Collection: **7.** 7mm 18 karat yellow gold concave ring with palladium center line (\$2250); 7mm 18 karat yellow gold concave ring with 3 .03 carat flush set diamonds (\$2350). **8.** Palladium 950 'Forma' mounting with .75 carat, GVVS1 emerald cut diamond (\$5200); 7x2mm palladium 950 band with 10 flush set round brilliant diamonds totaling .90 carats (\$4495). **9.** 12mm wide stainless steel 'Soho' ring with 24 karat gold side inlay and 3 flush set .008 carat round brilliants (\$840); 2.5mm wide stainless steel 'Soho' ring with 24 karat gold side inlay and 5 flush set .008 carat round brilliants (\$740). **10.** 18 karat red gold 'Forged Rounded' mounting with a palladium bezel set .31 carat, HSI1 round brilliant diamond (\$3975); 18 karat red gold 'Ribbon' mounting with a palladium bezel set .72 carat, GVS2 round brilliant diamond (\$6390). **11.** 9mm radial Damascus steel 'Helsinki' ring with fine silver inlay and 3 .01 carat black diamonds (\$720); 9mm concave radial Damascus steel 'Barcelona' ring with fine silver inlay and liner (\$780). **12.** Stainless steel 'Vail' ring with 24 karat gold inlay and 2mm tension set ruby (\$885); Stainless steel 'Vail' ring with fine silver inlay and .05 carat tension set diamond (\$730). **Photos 1-6: Max's, [www.stylebymax.com](http://www.stylebymax.com), photos by Andy Lien. Photos 7-12: Stephen Vincent Design, [www.svstudio.com](http://www.svstudio.com), photos by Andy Lien.**





EC Design Jewelry: **1.** Cell Bands: 10mm wide, oxidized sterling silver bands, hand-hammered, w/ either 18k (\$445) or 14k pink (\$420) gold cell accents and black diamonds. **2.** 8x2mm hand-hammered palladium band (\$1125); Rose-cut solitaire, 6x2mm hand-hammered sterling silver, with a rose-cut champagne diamond, bezel set in 14k pink gold (\$475). **3.** 4x2mm scatter band, hand-hammered sterling silver with 6 champagne diamonds (\$495) shown with a 1mm wide 14k pink gold band (\$275); 2x2mm stacking diamond bands, hand-hammered sterling silver with Cognac, champagne (\$245), blue (\$295), and green diamonds (\$140); 8x2mm scatter band, hand-hammered sterling silver band and scattered black diamonds (\$575). **4.** Cell Band Set: 8x2mm palladium band, with a 14k pink gold cell accent (\$1875) with a 1.5x2mm, 14k pink gold band (\$475); Cell Ring: hand-hammered 14k pink gold square with an off-set white diamond, on a 3x1.5mm palladium band (\$1445). **5.** Rivet Ring: 6x2mm, hand-hammered palladium band, with an 18k green gold accent and a 0.02ct white diamond (\$1475); Itty bitty rose-cut solitaire, white rose-cut diamond in a 14k pink gold bezel on a 1.5x1.5mm 14k pink gold band (\$745) shown with a 4x1.5mm 18k gray gold band (\$895). **6.** Itty-bitty rose-cut solitaire, champagne rose-cut diamond in a 14k pink gold bezel, on a 2x1.5mm linear hammered sterling silver band (\$295); Rose-cut sapphire ring, orange rose-cut sapphire in a 14k pink gold bezel, on a 6x2mm, linear hammered, sterling silver band (\$545). **7.** Cracked Bands: 6mm hand-hammered sterling silver with hand-engraved "crack" (\$245) and 8mm hand-hammered oxidized sterling silver with hand-engraved "crack" (\$295). Karin Jacobson Jewelry: **8.** Square Palladium950 & Moissanite Collection: Women's medium with four 2mm round Moissanites (\$1445); Solitaire with 6.5mm round Moissanite (\$2622) with women's small band (\$797); Men's plain square band (\$1962). **9.** Triangle Palladium950 & Moissanite Collection: Men's plain triangle band (\$1726); Women's wide band w/2.5x5mm Moissanite baguette (\$1772); Solitaire w/6.5 mm round Moissanite (\$2282) with women's small band (\$797); Women's small w/one 2.5mm Moissanite (\$911). **Photos 1-7: Emily Johnson of EC Design, [www.ecdesignstudios.com](http://www.ecdesignstudios.com), photos by Hubert Bonnet. Photos 8 & 9: Karin Jacobson, [www.superkarin.com](http://www.superkarin.com), photos by Todd Hafermann.**





Desserts by Cocoa & Fig: **1.** Southern Banana Pudding Dessert Shooters: Layers of rich vanilla bean custard, fresh bananas, crushed Nilla Wafer cookies, and fresh whipped cream (\$2/each), photo by Laura Ivanova Photography. **2.** Dark Chocolate Dessert Shooters: Crushed chocolate cookies, Valrhona chocolate pudding, and fresh whipped cream (\$2/each), photo by Cadence Cornelius Photographs. **3.** Very Berry Shortcake Dessert Shooters: Vanilla bean cake, lemon mousse, seasonal berries, and fresh whipped cream in mini bale jars with wooden spoons (\$4/each), photo by Brandon Werth Photography. **4.** Pie on a Stick: House-made pie dough cut with a Minnesota-shaped cookie cutter then filled with pie filling and topped with another crust cutout and baked to a golden brown (\$3/each), photo by Becca Dilley Photography for Hearten Magazine. **5.** Vanilla Cake Lollipops: Decadent cake and buttercream icing is combined and rolled into a ball then dipped in milk, dark, or white chocolate (\$2/each), photo by Jeff Loves Jessica. **Cocoa & Fig, [www.cocoaandfig.com](http://www.cocoaandfig.com).**






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**1 - 3.** Delightful and delectable cupcakes and cakes by **Sweet Retreat**, [www.thesweetretreatmn.com](http://www.thesweetretreatmn.com), photos 1 & 2 by James Schwartz; photo 3 by Curt Yamada. **4.** Custom cake topper made to look like the grooms by Christa McKibben of **Tippy Top Creations**, [www.tippytop.net](http://www.tippytop.net); photo by Donae Cotton of Donae Cotton Photography. **5.** Dessert table styling and design: Twin Cities' only dessert table designer, Shauna Younge specializes in creating highly-customized dessert displays, **Shauna Younge Dessert Tables**, [www.shaunayounge.com](http://www.shaunayounge.com), photos by Paper Antler.





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**1 - 2.** Studio on Fire creates custom letterpress invitations: The first example for a pair of brides using artwork designed by Studio on Fire, the second example for a pair of grooms using a design by one of the fellows, [www.studioonfire.com](http://www.studioonfire.com), photos by Studio on Fire. **3.** Tech Savvy: Red Stamp has a full suite of stylish correspondence for weddings and unions that can now be designed and sent directly from your iPhone and iPad in a variety of ways :: text, tweet, email, Facebook and send paper postcards, [www.redstamp.com](http://www.redstamp.com). **4.** Mr. & Mr. or Mrs. & Mrs. custom invitations by [redshoes26 design](http://redshoes26design.com), [www.redshoes-26design.com](http://www.redshoes-26design.com), photo by Hubert Bonnet. **5 - 6.** Custom Birds of a Feather Fingerprint Tree Canvas Guest Book and custom invitations by My Choi of **Paper Thinker**, [www.paperthickink.com](http://www.paperthickink.com), photos by ta'rooke photography.



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# VENUES FOR YOU

→ by Joy Summers

One of the many difficult decisions facing betrothed couples is also the question that's plagued our people since first we discovered the transformative power of fire to food, what are we going to eat? Hosting a wedding is not unlike throwing the cocktail party of your lives. Not only is it the opportunity for family and friends to toast your union, share in the love of one special day, it's also a chance to stuff them silly and maybe keep Aunt Ida's mouth full enough to keep her obnoxious opinions to herself (there's one in every crowd). Deciding the right caterer and event space can be beyond overwhelming. Here we've gathered a few of our favorite spots to host a party, equipped with some of the best food in town. Whether a swank affair or a backyard bbq is your personal style, we've got the food for you.

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Photo by Billy Rob McFarland

For a couple looking for a so-

phisticated cocktail party, CREATE Catering space is the only one of its kind that also holds a full liquor license. Handy if your friends are anything like mine. Tucked into a stretch of industrial, art studio spaces off Broadway and Central in Northeast, the room is part art gallery, part catering space. The doors roll up in the warmer months allowing guests to spill outside into the elements. CREATE also boasts major foodie-cred with Chef Philip Dorwart leading the kitchen. A graduate of the prestigious Culinary Institute of America, Dorwart has worked in some storied kitchens. Best of all, the food that is served is sustainably sourced.

The room can hold around 72 people for a sit-down dinner or about 125 for a standup cocktail party.

## Kafe 421

421 14th Ave SE, Minneapolis  
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Perfect for the couple looking to revel in the love of close friends and family. Kafe 421 offers an intimate room off the back of their Dinkytown restaurant. Run by mother-daughter team Georgia Sander and daughter Antigoni Sander-McCloud, they'll make every member of your wedding feel like a close personal friend. The care that goes into each part of the party throwing pro-

cess is reflective of the loving family that runs this place. The food available is Mediterranean with worldly influences. While the catering menu is a bit more formally skewed, they've been known to bring in their more casual items, like the killer lamb burger, at special request. They only serve beer and wine, but can bring in virtually any wine the couple requests, or as Tig told me, "If they want Dom, we can get them Dom! No problem."

The backroom holds around 50 for a sit down dinner or 90 for a cocktail-style reception. Best of all, on Sunday nights, there is no room rental fee.

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Perfect for a much more ambitious wedding party. I'd challenge you to find more elegant surroundings. The Walker can host a party from 6 to 3500 guests – an impressive span. They have a myriad of different rooms including the very chic Gather restaurant space. With a patio that overlooks the sculpture garden and downtown Minneapolis, it's as impressive a view as you could ask for on a warm Minnesota evening. The food comes from the same

kitchen that has trained some of the best chefs this city has to offer, including Gather Executive Chef Josh Brown. Gather has been recognized as one of the best new restaurants of the last year. Restrained elegance with the best ingredients served as food art, while surrounded by modern art.

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For a couple looking to inject a bit of whimsy in their wedding, why not have a bright orange truck bring the fun food? The food truck option is the perfect way to go for crunchy, nature-loving couples, ideally suited for outdoor ceremonies. While Amy Frechette and Kari Offerdahl can handily whip up just about any food your hearts request, their slow braised, pulled pork is a thing of beauty, as is their refreshing, zingy, vegan-friendly gazpacho. Their guest lists usually range from serving 15-500 people.

The fun of a food truck also allows for guests to come up and place their own orders, rather than that awkward time spent at tables, all guest's eyes hungrily turned to overwhelmed servers only to receive tepid food. The ladies also have some fun bartenders that they can bring in to serve alcoholic drinks (providing that the venue has licensing, etc.).



Continued on page 70.



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Continued from page 68

**Bachelor Farmer**  
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One more place to keep in mind is the über-hip Bachelor Farmer. The restaurant made the semi-finals for the Beard awards earlier this year as one of the best new restaurants in the country. Run by the Dayton brothers, covered with Alec Soth photography, and sporting the sort of refined, elegant Norwegian food sweeping the world, it's ground zero for food hipness right now. While it wasn't quite prepared by press time, they will also soon sport what is likely to be the most sought after event space in the city. The upper level of the converted warehouse is still being spiffed up, and details being finalized, but watch this space for more information. □



D'Amico Catering at the Walker. Photo Courtesy of Walker Art Center





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# Lavender Love: Wedding Edition

→ by Toni Meyers

## DON AND JERRY FOREVER FAITHFUL:



(Left to right): Phil Blanding, Don Ofstedal, Jerry Lee, Jay Conti. Photo provided by Jerry Lee

Don Ofstedal and Jerry Lee met in the early 70's in a now defunct bar called Suttons. Sitting around the bar, their eyes met. They struck up a conversation that made them want to get to know one another better. Over a year later, they moved in together. It was at the time where they were moving back and forth from San Francisco to Minneapolis that their relationship thickened. They were in their 20s that night they met at the bar, and 40 years later they are still together. Having that strong support and unconditional acceptance was key to enhancing their relationship. They try to never go to bed with an unresolved conflict between each other and have a high respect for one another as individuals. When Massachusetts passed the legislation for gay marriages, Don and Jerry undoubtedly agreed to tie the knot. They went online and applied for a license and made arrangements with the justice of peace in Provincetown to complete the ceremony. In June of 2004, they were married. A quick four years later, they decided to remarry in California, as well. They are even not eliminating the possibility of a third

marriage. I asked them for their secret and they replied, "It's not all easy to say exactly what has worked for us, but certainly the support of nearly all of our friends and family gave us a foundation that helped us grow over the years." Don then gave me a word of advice, "Having the encouragement of our friends and family all seemed to enrich the life we have had together and, also, the life we still have ahead of us."

## MATT AND CHAD HALLOWEEN TREATS:



Matt Felt and Chad Kampe. Photo by Yaritza Colon

It was a Halloween night filled with costumes and dancing at the Saloon. A young Chad Kampe was a senior at Macalester College at the time when he randomly convinced himself to take a study break. So he dressed himself up as a Tennis Pro and hit the Saloon.

It was that night nine years ago when Matt Felt decided to do the same and went out as a Pro Wrestler. They spotted each other on the dance floor and the rest was history. "We have similar ideas about what is fun, and really seem to understand each other," Chad confessed. A couple years later, they decided to get married but the proposal was not needed. They just knew that it was the right thing to do. "It was very natural," they explained to me. In the mountains of Western Massachusetts, they rented out a property and invited close friends and family. A total of 150 people: "That shows us just how much people really do care about us." The wedding was a special and meaningful occasion. It was their first chance to publicly declare the love they have for each other in a larger group. Before, the nerves of holding hands or even kissing in the street was not always appreciated. A majority of their guests stayed on the property as they celebrated their love on both Friday and Saturday. Each night the dancing continued until about two in the morning. Throughout the day, they had activities such as wine tastings and jazzercise classes. Overall, it was a colorful weekend of pride and love. The idea of a life together, raising a child, traveling the country are all what brings this couple their deserved happiness. The willingness to offer your life to another does not necessarily make you happy. It is sharing your lifetime with the person you care for the most with the expectance of only love in return.

## PATRICIA AND SONIA PROPOSAL ONE AND PROPOSAL TWO:



How would you spend all the days of your life together with one person? I asked Patricia Rhodes and Sonia Wright, →

Continued on page 74



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Sonia Wright and Patricia Rhodes.  
Photo by a.m. Photography

“Laughing!” They replied. They met each other years ago in California while visiting a friend. Afterward, the memory of one another stuck with them as they progressed as close friends throughout the years. They fell in love and in 2006, they started dating. Patricia became defenseless against Sonia’s smile and in 2007 they became domestic partners. A year later, they both knew the time was right for a more meaningful commitment.

Two proposals: Patricia is a very traditional person when it comes to marriage. She called Sonia’s father to ask for his daughter’s hand in marriage, along with her mother, sister and brother. Sonia’s father and brother share a name, the older being Senior and the younger being Junior. Patricia called Sonia’s father to deliver her proposal but, after her heartfelt speech, Patricia waited for a response and was embarrassed to hear Sonia’s brother’s voice telling her that, in fact, he was not Sonia’s father. Patricia had to call Sonia’s father and redeliver the entire the speech to get his permission.

In July of 2008, Patricia got down on one knee, holding a gorgeous diamond ring, and asked Sonia to marry her. Sonia was speech-

less and dazzled by the beauty of the ring. She was worried about the expense Patricia invested and suggested getting a more affordable wedding band. One day while Sonia was reclining in a chair, the ring fell in the cracks of the cushions. After much panic and determination to recover her ring, she could no longer imagine her finger wearing anything else.

When the time finally came, they set the date three weeks in advance of their wedding day. Even with such short notice, they had full support of their families and were able to make a dream wedding come true. Patricia and Sonia were married on 10-10-10. “Marriage is important to us, it helps our children feel secure and our extended family recognize our level of commitment to each other,” they told me. In the future, they see only brightness. “We are just really happy, and excited to share the rest of our lives together raising our kids and growing old.”

## ANIA AND MOLLY THE BEST OF TWO WORLDS:



Molly Ahern and Ania Nadybska.  
Photo by a.m. photography

Ania Nadybska traveled from Poland at the age of 19 on 9/11 with high aspirations

of experiencing new endeavors and an education in the United States, unaware of the happiness ahead waiting for her to unravel. Molly and Ania crossed paths while working together in her sister’s restaurant back in March of 2003. Hypnotized by her thick accent, Molly Ahern was literally hooked at hello. Immediately, Molly was drawn to Ania as soon as she saw her outgoing personality and captivated by the radiance of her smile. Neither Molly nor Ania were out at this point but, after about a year of flirting, their relationship became almost enviable. Molly gathered up enough courage to take the first leap and ask Ania out on a date. Joyfully, Ania accepted.

The first date was at the Lagoon Theatre where they shared their first kiss. They have been together ever since, eight years. Molly has a deep understanding and enthusiasm for learning the tradition and culture of Poland, so when Molly knew she wanted to propose she practiced for weeks the translation into Polish. Molly’s sister, Kelly, helped in the planning as the family took off to Costa Rica. Molly and her sister picked up a ring and packed it secretly on the trip. The execution had to be perfect so the decision was made to go on a horseback ride through the rain forest and end up at a beautiful waterfall. When they reached the waterfall, Molly was amused to discover that it was actually Costa Rica’s dry season and there was barely a stream to be seen. Regardless, the feelings remained abundant. On one knee in front of that tiny stream, Molly looked up at Ania and asked her for a lifetime together. “I absolutely love the feeling of knowing that I have someone as wonderful as Molly in my life,” Ania professed. Today, Molly and Ania are still hoping for Minnesota to pull through on marriage equality, but in the meantime they continue each day together. “I would marry her today if I could,” Molly told me. Molly and Ania give reassurance that love truly does inspire one another to become better people. □





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from Williams-Sonoma since it imbues a sense of history and age. Here you see the baby bottles of Moscato and the full-sized bottles with their golden color bringing more hues of yellow in.

The hers & hers yellow bouquets in matching tones, yet different flowers, hint at the differences of two people involved in this celebration of commitment. I chose to make an ombre cake in yellow to pull in all the tones of the season. The layers of cake are also ombred to match the vanilla-bean buttercream exterior. The simple daffodil-hued invitation with black brings the look full circle. Summer is a season of plenty, everything is flourishing and growing. Think of bright colors, light dishes and bold patterns.

**Autumn** is a season of harvest, a time when we reap and begin to store up for the winter months. Deep colors like browns and plums, think texture such as mohair and tweed. I chose my faux bois tabletop collection for Autumn due to the deep, brown color and texture of the pattern. The earthenware is handmade in England and evokes a sense of tradition. The Dorset crystal is from Williams-Sonoma, chosen as the hand-cut bevels hinted at the ridges of a tree trunk without being literal.

I chose a cutting board by J.K. Adams and a wooden pedestal as serving pieces to bring more cohesion of this season together. On the cutting board is a fig & olive tapenade that is served family style. The cake is a brown sugar & bourbon cake that is iced with a brown sugar & bourbon buttercream. Nestled in between the cake layers is a bourbon-infused ganache and also drizzled on top. Full, rich flavors paired with deep, intense colors – autumn is a season of luxe. The woodland boutonnieres for him & him are made of found items from the forest.

The look is finished off with a pumpkin-colored invitation with berry ribbon, baby bottles of Processo in a beautiful, brown hue which I envision infusing with a dose of Crème Yvette. I fashioned a sculptural wedding cake out of faux bois pieces to show another variation of how you can present your registry gift to the happy couple.

**Winter** is the season of rest. It is also a season of Christmas, the New Year, and Valentines. I specifically chose red for this season, yet wanted to not be overly literal to the point of being corny. Red in all its many hues is a vibrant and warm color. The eclectic dinnerware from Williams-Sonoma with its many textures is literally called Eclectique. What I love about this collection is its durability, yet it maintains a refined appearance. One would never know it goes from the freezer to the oven to the table, or that you can throw it in the microwave and then the dishwasher. These porcelain pieces are true investments in your entertaining repertoire. You will truly own these forever (unless of course you throw one across the room, then not so much...) The dinnerware cake is a set atop a vintage-inspired cake stand from Williams-Sonoma.

I believe the Holidays are a time of shimmer and sparkle, so I wanted to bring silver in. Here you see silver-rimmed saucer champagne/martini glasses and drink glasses from Riedel, available at Williams-Sonoma along with the hammered flatware which reflects light much like the moon off fallen snow.

The luxurious, red Il Rosso sparkles in the saucer champagne glass alongside the red bottle it was poured from. The 'Save the Date' correspondence is a snow-white parchment paper embossed with a faux bois design, paired with a champagne-colored invitation with snow-white bow. This elegant setting with its silver, red and glass pairings is accented by a bouquet of champagne and snow tones atop silvery-gilt eucalyptus. The vessel they sit within is hand-wrapped in burgundy-colored ribbon. I elevated the floral centerpiece on a glass cake stand from Crate & Barrel so as not to detract from it.

Any pieces not mentioned in the article are from my own personal collection that I have obtained over the years. Thank you Kevin at Baker, Knapp & Tubbs for the use of their beautiful showroom as well as the vendors that supplied product for this spread, this would have never been achieved without you: Crate & Barrel, Johnson Brothers, Papyrus, Target and Williams-Sonoma.

The appetizer suggestions I created for the article are meant to be created for affairs of 24 or less, truly anything larger than that and you should really consider having someone else do that on your behalf. I wanted to inspire your event with ideas that can be made a week, a few days prior, or the day of so you can pace yourself without getting too stressed out. Maybe even have your friends/family pitch in by making some of the recipes for you and bringing them – after all, your wedding is about a coming together of all your loved ones.

In ending, I want to thank Andy and Lavender Magazine for asking me to inspire readers with what I would do if/when I get married (should Mitch ever ask me). It has been meant to be relatable and aspirational for you all. I would love to see photos and hear from you all who use this as a guide as that is what continues to inspire me. Wishing you all a year filled with fantastic opportunities and love. **Please see [www.LavenderMagazine.com](http://www.LavenderMagazine.com) for all cake and appetizer recipes.** □





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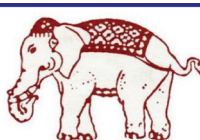
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# Real Weddings:

## SONIA WRIGHT AND PATRICIA RHODES

Date of Wedding: October 10, 2010  
Dating Since: 2006  
Ceremony: Mayflower United Church of Christ,  
Minneapolis  
Reception: Stella's Fish Café, Minneapolis  
Photography: a.m. photography

Getting married was an easy and fast decision for Sonia and Patricia once Patricia popped the question. Sonia says that being married "feels so right to us- like we've known each other forever." Braving their fair share of hilarious adventures, including losing Sonia's engagement ring in a recliner and accidentally asking Sonia's brother instead of her father for her hand in marriage, the couple knows they will "spend the rest of our lives together because we compliment each other so well and spend all of our time laughing."









Real Weddings:

**ERICA HOLZER AND JANE (BOWMAN) HOLZER**

Date of Wedding: August 13, 2011  
Dating Since: Had dated 4 years  
Ceremony: Macalester College  
Weyerhauser Chapel  
Reception: Macalester College  
Kagin Commons  
Additional Location: The Saint Paul Hotel  
Photography: Studio Same

Jane and Erica's wedding was a very personal reflection of themselves. The couple combined Erica's Jewish traditions with Jane's Unitarian traditions to create a uniquely blended ceremony. Complete with a bagpiper and decorations made by Erica's mother, the wedding was full of positive energy and beautiful sunshine. Their photographer Pat Connolly recalls the "openness, warmth, and authenticity" of the event and the beauty of spending time with such a delightful family.









## Real Weddings:

### BERNARD LEE & MARK MILLER

Date of Wedding: October 10, 2010

(aka 10/10/10)

Dating Since: October 5, 2001

Location of Ceremony and Reception: James

J Hill Reference Library, St. Paul

Photography: Rogue Photography and

Bellagala

Floral: Sassafras Floral

Bernard and Mark took special care to choose the perfect date for their wedding: 10-10-10. The date was close to the anniversary of their first date, and they knew it would be easy to remember. But, most importantly, the number 10-10-10 in Chinese culture symbolizes "a state or condition that everything is (and hopefully will be) perfect." As the winners of Lavender's Win a Wedding Contest, the duo was able to have their dream wedding and continue to plan their future together. Bernard notes that winning the contest "actually helped us in our ultimate goal of adopting children, and in less than two years, we now have two little baby boys in our home." With the growth of such a beautiful family, it seems like Bernard and Mark really have reached a state of perfection.









# Real Weddings:

## ANGELA CALLAIS AND DENISE OCHOCKI

Date of Wedding: November 11, 2011  
Ceremony and Reception: Intermedia Arts,  
Minneapolis  
Photography: Emma Freeman Photography

Angela and Denise incorporated their love for art into every aspect of their special day. The crafty couple wanted to handle most of the preparations themselves, including creating invitations and decorating for the reception. Antique clocks were refinished and set at "11:11" to mark the date. The couple kept it casual and personal on their wedding day, spending time with their daughter and other family members as they set up for the ceremony. Photographer Emma Freeman says "their wedding was a celebration of art, community, commitment, and love in a very personal and beautiful way."









# Real Weddings:

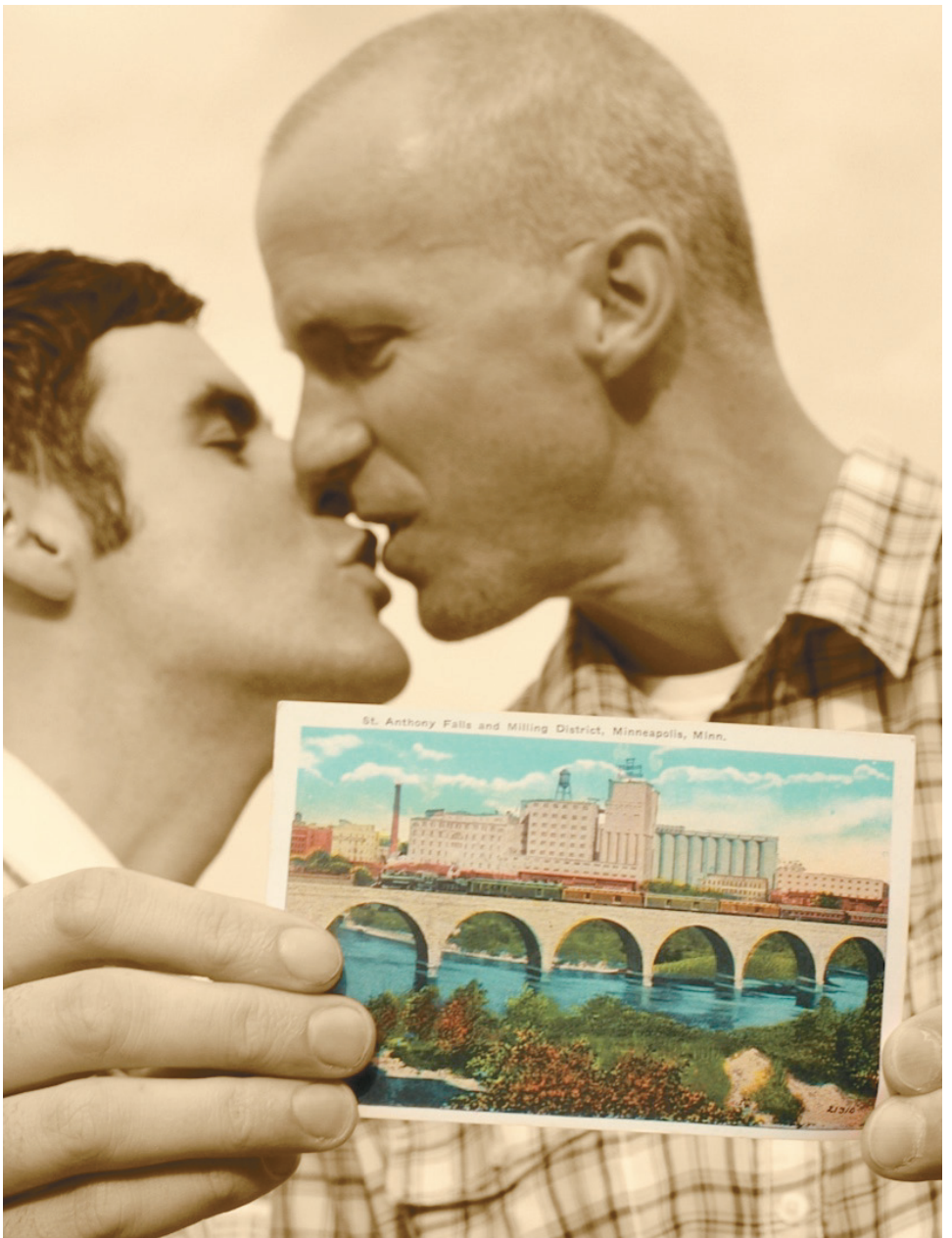
## PATRICK DEA AND SCOTT BOOHER

Date of Wedding: August 12, 2011  
Dating Since: August 12, 2002  
Ceremony: Loring Pasta Bar, Minneapolis  
Reception: Varsity Theater, Minneapolis  
Photography: Rebecca Larson of Rebecca  
Rae Photography

Patrick and Scott met in an online chat room in August of 2002. After only one week, Patrick drove five and a half hours from Iowa to Uptown to spend the weekend with Scott. Patrick fondly remembers their first meeting. "He introduced me to Iron Chef and he tried to play footsie with me. I was sold." The wedding took place nine years later in August to celebrate their first meeting. The couple created annotated maps of Minneapolis to chart the history of their romance, pointing out where they got engaged and other romantic highlights. Learn more about Patrick and Scott's wedding at <http://www.patrickandscott.net/Ceremony/Welcome.html>.







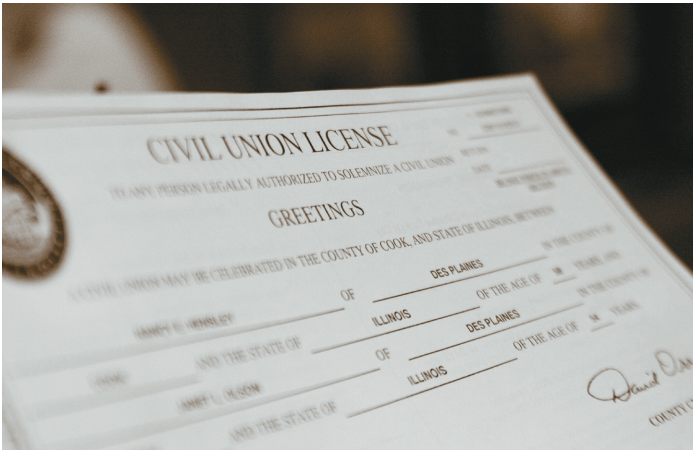


# Real Weddings:

## JAN OLSON AND NANCY HENSLY

Date of Wedding: September 10, 2011  
Dating Since: Had dated 17 years  
Ceremony and Reception: Chicago  
Photography: Custom Creations Photography

For years, Nancy's co-workers questioned her about "who's the man" whenever she received flowers at work. Little did they know, the "man" was actually Jan--the love of Nancy's life. Nancy finally told her co-workers and married Jan after 17 years of dating. The couple's photographer, Amy Zellmer, followed the couple to Chicago for the ceremony. "They are such a wonderful and happy couple. It brought tears to my eyes to see them so in love!"









# Real Weddings:

## RIVER COOK AND BYRD SHULER

Date of Wedding: July 23, 2011  
Dating Since: February 1, 2002  
Ceremony and Reception: Windbeam Farm,  
Hager City, WI  
Photography: Amy Wurdock Photography

Photographer Amy Wurdock recalls River and Byrd's wedding as one of the most beautiful ceremonies she's ever photographed. "The love and community that surrounded them took my breath away." Each wedding detail was planned with care, and each family and friend had a special role in the ceremony. River recalls "how many of our people showed up for us, and from how many different parts of our lives; going through that ceremony with that many witnesses was super profound and beautiful."









## Real Weddings:

### **PETER KENNON AND BRIAN ROOD**

Date of Wedding: December 10, 2011  
Ceremony and Reception: Five Events Center,  
Minneapolis  
Photography: VADA Photography

Though Brian and Peter officially got married in Massachusetts, they decided to hold an additional ceremony in Minnesota with more family, more friends, and more flair. Wanting to have a wedding they would personally like to be guests at, the duo planned an atmospheric winter wedding full of food, humor, and tons of surprises--most notably with a butler passing out Taco Bell at midnight! The couple's memories couldn't be better. Brian says, "it's a cliché when couples say that their wedding was the best day of their lives. It's even more absurd when couples say that everything was perfect. Yet, that's how we like to remember that day with our friends and family."









## Real Weddings:

### JESS HAAS AND HEATHER WILLY

Date of Wedding: August 6, 2011

Ceremony and Reception: Open Eye Theatre,  
Minneapolis

Photography: Emma Freeman Photography

Using food from local farms and home-brewed beer, Jess and Heather planned an intimate event that was all about their love for bikes, local food, good beer, and (of course) each other. Friends and family members participated in a bike procession through the streets of Minneapolis to the Open Eye Theatre, with the couple riding a yellow tandem bike. Members of the community picked flowers and poured drinks, making the event a community celebration of their beautiful relationship.









## Real Weddings:

### MELISSA DOYLE AND KAMI DAVIS

Date of Wedding: April 16, 2010

Dating Since: Had dated for 4½ years

Ceremony: All God's Children MCC,  
Minneapolis

Reception: Millennium Hotel, Minneapolis

Floral: La Petite Fleur

Photography: Tracy LeCapitaine Photography  
and Carra Otten

Melissa and Kami knew that getting married was the obvious next step for two people with the bond they experienced. The couple knew they were perfect for each other from the minute they met through mutual friends. "From the beginning we were inseparable! There was a spark between us; an understanding and a bond that neither of us had ever felt before. It was, and still is, electric!"









## Real Weddings:

### ALYSON AND JESSE NEWQUIST (ENGAGEMENT PHOTOS)

Date of Wedding: August 24, 2011

Dating Since: 2006

Ceremony and Reception: Juliane James Place, Finlayson

Floral: Munster Rose

Photography: Photogen Inc

Even a plan to only go on 20 dates couldn't keep Alyson and Jesse from embracing their commitment to each other and tying the knot. After a seven-month road trip across the country, the couple finally settled down in Minnesota and developed a unique wedding venue called Juliane James Place. "It's a wedding venue for people who want to get married in an open space - without the burden of others' assumptions."









# Real Weddings:

**AARON SMITH  
AND PHILLIP POTTRATZ**

Date of Wedding: August 13, 2011  
Dating Since: Had dated 3 ½ years  
Ceremony and Reception: Private residence  
in Melrose  
Floral: Sadie's Floral  
Photography: Alee Photography

In order to incorporate Aaron's New York background with Phillip's Minnesota background, the couple decided to "blend a NYC chic with a Minnesota Nice theme" for their wedding. With classy cocktails and Minnesota comfort food, the day fully embraced the merging of two lives into one. Aaron and Phillip even created a special cocktail--the "Panda"--to commemorate the event. The evening ended in a splash--Aaron and Phillip both jumped into the pool followed by several guests!





# Lavender's Wedding Services Directory

Name & Location		Description	Name & Location		Description
Beauty/Spa					
Anew Aesthetic 120 6th St. S., #175 Minneapolis, MN 55402 (612) 208-0741 www.anewmedicalcenter.com		Approach your big day facing the world confidently – looking better, and most importantly, feeling better than you ever did before. Call for your private consultation. Anew you... Anew life together!	Good Thyme Restaurant 77180 Hwy 13 Washburn, WI 54891 (715) 373-5255 www.goodthymrestaurant.com		Private parties, catering and event space. Signature entrees and desserts presented with at-home hospitality. Simply a great wining and dining experience that your guests will not forget! Bayfield/ Apostle Island area.
Ivy Spa Club 201 S. 11th St. Minneapolis, MN 55403 (612) 343-3131 www.ivyspaclub.com		Twin Cities' largest full-service spa with over 90 spa and salon treatments. Our expert stylists and well-trained therapists offer the ultimate in body and hair care for your important day.	Grand Hotel Minneapolis 615 2nd Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55402 (612) 373-0411 www.grandhotelminneapolis.com		The Grand Hotel can assist you in planning your wedding, commitment ceremony or anniversary. With superior service, cuisine, 4 Diamond accommodations, fitness club and spa, we're perfect for your events.
			Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church 511 Groveland Ave. Minneapolis, MN 55403 (612) 871-5303 www.HennepinChurch.org		
Catering			Hotel Minneapolis 215 4th St. S. Minneapolis, MN 55401 (612) 340-2000 www.thehotelminneapolis.com		
Christos Restaurant & Catering St. Paul (651) 224-6000 Minneapolis: (612) 871-2111 Minnetonka: (612) 912-1000 www.christos.com		Christos offers a wide range of catering services from booking a banquet to full-service meals delivered to your home or other location. Call our catering specialist today!	Landmark Center 75 W. 5th St. St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 292-3228 www.landmarkcenter.org		Historic Landmark Center is the perfect site for wedding ceremonies and receptions. It features soaring views with a glass skylight above the grand cortile ballroom and elegant courtrooms.
Common Roots Catering 2558 Lyndale Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55405 (612) 353-4261 www.commonrootscatering.com		Full-service caterer offering modern takes on classic American cuisine. We use local and organic ingredients to create a memorable menu with great food and drink that matches your values.	Loring Kitchen & Bar 1359 Willow St. Minneapolis, MN 55403 (612) 843-0400 www.loringkitchen.com		Serving contemporary comfort food, eclectic wine, and craft cocktails for rehearsal dinners, wedding receptions, and morning after brunches. Centrally located, flexibility, peace of mind, and ambiance your guest will remember.
French Meadow 2610 Lyndale Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55408 (612) 767-3443 catering@frenchmeadowcafe.com www.frenchmeadowcafe.com		We are more than buffets. Whether helping you plan an eco-friendly wedding at a non-traditional venue or a more formal affair we can cater to your every need.	Maidenwood Wedding Center and Country Inn N447 244th Street Stockholm, WI 54769 (602) 920-9365 www.maidenwood.net		Private reception center on 80-acre country estate with ceremony site in wildflower meadow overlooking Lake Pepin 1 hour from Cities. Honeymoon Suite plus 3 rooms. Gorgeous hall seats 200. Incomparable!
Mintáhoe Catering & Events (612) 253-0255 info@mintahoe.com www.mintahoe.com		Mintáhoe Catering & Events offers a full-range of catering services as well as the most popular event spaces for every occasion!	Profile Event Center 2630 University Ave. SE Minneapolis, MN 55414 (612) 331-5000 www.profileeventcenter.com		Beyond ordinary, extraordinary. The Profile Event Center is a dynamic and exciting setting for GLBT wedding receptions. No one leaves early from a reception at the Profile Event Center!
Sawatdee Thai Restaurant 607 Washington Ave S. Minneapolis, MN 55415 (612) 338-6451 Cyndy@sawatdee.com www.sawatdee.com		Serving award-winning Thai cuisine since 1983. Offering the only full service Thai catering in the city and a private party room for up to 50 seated guests.	Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral 519 Oak Grove St. Minneapolis, MN 55403 (612) 780-7800 www.ourcathedral.org		A vibrant and welcoming metropolitan congregation located in the Minneapolis' Loring Park neighborhood, immediately south of downtown.
Ceremony & Reception Venues			Saint Paul Hotel 350 Market St. St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 292-9292 www.stpaulhotel.com		
All God's Children Metropolitan Community Church 3100 Park Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55407 (612) 824-2673 www.agcmcc.org		A Christian Church celebrating God's inclusive love for all, All God's Children Metropolitan Church offers a welcoming environment for your wedding.	Solera Restaurant & Event Center 900 Hennepin Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55403 (612) 338-0062 www.solera-restaurant.com		With two floors of event space we can accommodate up to 1,000 guests. Our distinctive Spanish-influenced cuisine, panoramic skyline views, indoor and outdoor spaces and affordable pricing create a truly unique event experience!
Campus Club 403 Coffman Memorial Union 300 Washington Ave. SE Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612) 625-1442 www.campusclubumn.org		The Campus Club has a long tradition of hosting wedding ceremonies and receptions. We offer a central location, warm and welcoming environment, outstanding views, and a creative, attentive event staff.	United Theological Seminary 3000 Fifth St NW, New Brighton, MN 55112 (651) 255-6145 wedding@unitedseminary.edu www.unitedseminary-mn.org		Bigelow Chapel: a stunning and unique venue. Warm, inviting setting with award-winning architecture and wonderful acoustics. Welcoming to people of all faiths and walks of life. Officiants available. Contact: Penny Truax
Embassy Suites Minneapolis North 6300 Earle Brown Dr. Brooklyn Center, MN 55430 (763) 560-2700 minneapolisnorth.embassysuites.com		"A Wedding You Both Will Love!" Embassy Suites Minneapolis North is a beautiful 175 room upscale all-suite property which can accommodate up to 200 guests for your special event.	Van Dusen Mansion 1900 LaSalle Ave. Minneapolis, MN 55403 (612) 871-2702 www.thevandesenmansion.com		"The award-winning Van Dusen Mansion is a full service, first class property perfect for elegant weddings. Every detail here is executed with care so you can enjoy your important day."



# Lavender's Wedding Services Directory

Name & Location	Description	Name & Location	Description
<b>Ceremony &amp; Reception Venues</b> <i>(continued)</i>		<b>Honeymoon Destinations</b>	
<b>W.A. Frost</b> 347 Selby Ave. St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 224-5715 www.wafrost.com	Incomparable ambiance and rare old world character located on historic Cathedral Hill. The cuisine has a strong emphasis on local small farmers that use organic and sustainable practices. Private rooms for groups of 8 – 48.	<b>Bob's Cabins</b> 664 Old North Shore Rd. Two Harbors, MN 55616 (218) 834-4583 www.bobscabinsonlakesuperior.com	Spend your honeymoon at a small, quiet resort on the North Shore overlooking Lake Superior. We are just 23 miles from downtown Duluth, and even closer to numerous North Shore attractions.
<b>The Woman's Club of Minneapolis</b> 410 Oak Grove St. Minneapolis, MN 55403 (612) 813-5300 www.womansclub.org	Over 100 years strong, step into the possibilities and set the date for your next event with us. We'll make your wedding, or other event, a memorable occasion for all. <b>Contact: Tim Welsh, Catering Director</b>	<b>twincitieshoneymoon.com</b> <b>Four Twin Cities locations in</b> <b>Maple Grove, Eden Prairie,</b> <b>Stillwater, Woodbury</b> <b>(612) 767-3360</b> www.twincitieshoneymoon.com/GLBT	Whether celebrating your honeymoon or a destination wedding, our specialists are here to help you sort through the endless options and provide unbiased advice, convenience and time savings.
<b>Event Planners</b>		<b>Winneshiek County Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau</b> 507 W. Water St. Decorah, IA 52101 (800) 463-4692 www.visitdecorah.com	Think Decorah! Refresh, rejuvenate, rekindle... whatever "R&R" you're up for, Decorah is the ultimate getaway; and just 3 hours from the cities!
<b>DLG Creative Management – Wedding &amp; Event Planning</b> 2021 Emerson Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55405 (612) 870-9082 www.dlgcreativemgmt.com	DLG Creative Management – Wedding & Event Planning will blend excellence with passion, skill with creativity and inspiration with budgetary consciousness to make your special day truly exceptional.	<b>Jewelers</b>	
<b>Fabulous Functions</b> <b>Julie Lyford, Owner Fabulous Functions LLC</b> (651) 307 - 0368 www.FabulousFunctions.com	We work behind the scenes, bringing your vision to life for you and your guests - using prescreened, gay-friendly businesses who are as excited about your event as we are.	<b>Arthur's Jewelers</b> 1717 Lexington Ave. N. Roseville, MN 55113 (651) 488-0365 www.arthursjewelers.com	Expecting just 50 bands? We have over 3,000 in store! Arthur's has been honored with more awards than any other jeweler in the state. At Arthur's Jewelers, Expect the Unexpected.
<b>Fashion</b>		<b>George Sawyer</b> 681 17th Ave. NE #125 Minneapolis, MN 55413 (612) 375-1799 www.georgesawyer.com	George Sawyer is the originator of mokume gane and patterned metal engagement, wedding and commitment rings. Our NE Minneapolis studio is open by appointment. Check our website and come in!
<b>Heimie's Haberdashery</b> 400 Saint Peter St. St. Paul, Minnesota 55102 (651) 224 2354 www.heimies.com	Your Day, Your Style, Let us be there with you!	<b>T Lee Fine Designer Jewelry</b> 18 University Ave. NE Minneapolis, MN 55413 (612) 789-2656 www.tleegold.com	Sophisticated yet friendly, luxury without pretense, hip but not trendy, designer jewelry that is powerful and rare.
<b>J. Novachis</b> 3930 W. 50th St. Edina, MN 55424 (952) 927-8808 www.jnovachis.com	Known for cutting edge menswear, J. Novachis welcomes everyone in your wedding party. Whether you're looking for tailored wedding-wear or unique gifts for the wedding party, J. Novachis will help make your day memorable.	<b>Photographers</b>	
<b>Gifts</b>		<b>Ahania Photography</b> <b>Highland Park</b> St. Paul, MN (952) 200-6335 www.ahaniaphoto.com	Photography for old souls and young hearts. Ahania Photography combines a classic sensibility and modern eye to create fresh, bright images, beautiful handcrafted albums, and fine-art prints.
<b>The Grand Hand Gallery</b> 619 Grand Ave. St Paul, MN 55102 (651) 312-1122 www.thegrandhand.com	From finding the perfect commitment rings, to creating a unique gift registry, the Grand Hand Gallery has one-of-a-kind items that are sure to help make your special day unforgettable.	<b>DM Photographs</b> <b>Minneapolis, MN</b> <b>(612) 293-9016</b> www.davidmesarch.com	Wedding and engagement photography that is as individual as you are, by a photographer that understands just how unique and special your love truly is.
<b>Max's</b> <b>The Shops at Excelsior &amp; Grand</b> 3826 Grand Way St. Louis Park, MN 55416 (952) 922-8364 www.stylebymax.com	Max's is an unique boutique featuring artist made fine jewelry, home decor and specialty chocolates from around the world. Named America's #1 Coolest Small Store by INSTORE magazine in 2011. Wedding Event: June 15-24.	<b>StudioSame</b> <b>(651) 247-0681</b> www.studiosame.com	We all yearn for our other half. When you find him or her (whether you're a him or a her) we are here. StudioSame. Capturing love and family – for everyone.
<b>Surdyk's Liquor &amp; Cheese Shop</b> 303 E. Hennepin Ave. Minneapolis, MN 55414 (612) 379-3232 www.surdyks.com	Surdyk's wine registry is the perfect complement to any gift list, and with over 5,000 brands of wine to choose from, it's the perfect complement to any couple.		



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Real Weddings:

**CHRISTINA THOMPSON AND  
KAREN (SELLS) THOMPSON**

Date of Wedding: October 15, 2010,  
legally married December 16, 2010  
Dating Since: March 16, 2006  
Ceremony and Reception: 413 on Wacouta,  
St. Paul  
Photography: MorganPhotography.biz

Christina knew the best way to propose to her first mate, Karen--in the tugboat on top of the Science Museum. After making Karen trek all around the museum, Christina finally popped the question in the place where they had their first date. Though Karen was completely ecstatic, she made Christina get one knee and formally propose before she said yes. The two eagerly planned their whole wedding themselves, choosing vendors and assistants that made each part of their special day unforgettable.





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A black and white photograph of two men in suits. The man in the foreground is smiling and holding a glass of vodka. The man in the background is also smiling and holding a glass. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows.

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